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Pretty in punk

Anti-establishment designer Vivienne Westwood tones it down with 1950s-inspired feminine florals at London Fashion Week PAGE 31

VANCOUVER metro®
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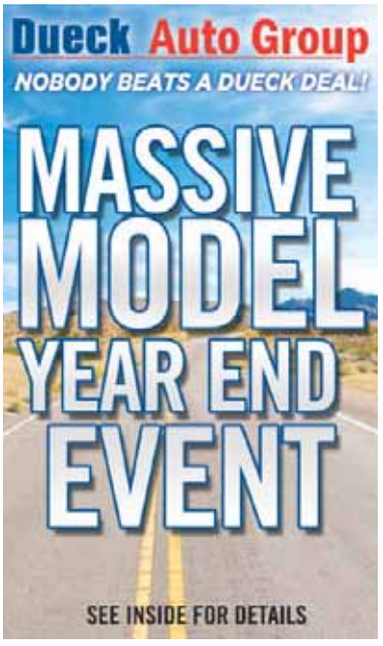

ON THE BUBBLE

Melody Yang entertains volunteers at Vancouver's Science World before her father, Fan Yang, attempts to set the world record for most people encapsulated in a soap bubble Wednesday. Story, page 4. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Marriage on the decline in Vancouver

Census data. 2011 stats show 73.8% of families include married couples, down by nearly 1% from 2005

The institution of marriage is on the decline in the metropolitan area of Vancouver, according to new census data that offers fresh insight into the complex composition of modern-day Canadian families.

The latest information from the 2011 census, released Wednesday by Statistics Canada, reveals the many different ways Canadians live together as a family unit: married, common-law, same-sex, with or without children and — tracked for the first time — in Brady Bunch-style stepfamilies.

When the census was taken in May 2011, there were 633,460 families in the census metropolitan area of Vancouver. Statistics Canada defines a "census family" as being composed of a married or common-law couple, including those with children, or of a lone parent living with at least one child in the same household.

Married couples — those with and without children — make up 73.8 per cent of families in the Vancouver region. That's a decrease from the last census taken in 2006 when 74.7 per cent of couples were married. Common-law couples make up 10.7 per cent of the families, up from 2006.

Across Canada, the percentage of married couples has dropped over the last five years from 68.6 per cent to 67 per cent of all families. Couples living together without being legally married make up 16.7 per cent of all families across the country, an increase from the 2006 census when it was 15.5 per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Other statistics

The new census data shows some other interesting details about families in the Vancouver region:

- 15.5 per cent of families are headed by single parents: 12.5 per cent by single mothers and 3.1 per cent by fathers.
- There are 6,425 same-sex couples (1.2 per cent of all metro Vancouver couples), up from 4,685 (one per cent) in 2006.
- 9.3 per cent of households have adult children aged 25 and over still living at home.

More on census results, pages 20-21

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Coast guard. Minister's Remarks contradict report: Jang

Vancouver City Coun. Kerry Jang slammed Federal Fisheries Minister Keith Ashfield for "ignoring the facts from his own staff" about the pending closure of the Kitsilano Coast Guard base.

Vancouver council passed a motion Tuesday requesting an audience with the prime minister and Vancouver-area MPs.

In question period in Ottawa Wednesday, Vancouver-Quadra Liberal MP Joyce Murray asked Ashfield whether the prime minister will meet with Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson to discuss the closure.

Ashfield didn't answer yes or no, but instead said that the Coast Guard is confident that the changes to the search-and-rescue network in Vancouver have been completed.

"There will be no negative impact on our ability to respond quickly and effectively to distresses on the water," he said during the session. "In fact, the Coast Guard held a series of round table working group meetings in Vancouver over the summer to ensure a smooth transition to the new system."

But Jang said the minister's remarks contradict a confidential report leaked early this month.

"It's very clear from the internal report from the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre which clearly says that it is unknown if the Sea Island base in Richmond can respond on time and it will likely put people's lives at risk," he said. "His own internal report contradicts what he said in Parliament.

"The (federal government) seems clearly entrenched in the idea of closing the station at all costs, showing a blatant disregard for their own data and ultimately the lives of Vancouverites," Jang said.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Sgt. Jennifer Pound, with the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team, points to a photo of similar black VS Miss-brand skinny jeans a woman, whose remains were found in North Vancouver last month, was wearing at the time of her death. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Police seek help in mystery murder

Investigation. Identity of victim still unclear even after police reveal details about her clothes, appearance

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
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Homicide investigators are seeking the help of the public in identifying a mystery woman with a possible international connection who was found murdered in North Vancouver last month.

The victim's remains were found on a gravel footpath near the 2000-block of Curling Road on August 18.

"This woman could be somebody's mother. She could be somebody's daughter. There are people who are probably expecting her to walk through the door," Sgt. Jennifer Pound, with the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team, said at a news conference in Surrey Wednesday.

Investigators displayed a sketch of what they believe she may have looked like, a photo of her teeth and clothing similar to what she wore at the time of her death.

Pound said the woman was wearing brown Adidas slip-on shoes and black VS Miss-brand skinny jeans, clothing that is most likely to be found in Europe.

Quoted

"This woman could be someone's mother. She could be someone's daughter."

Sgt. Jennifer Pound

This is why police are hoping to get information nationally and internationally to identify the victim.

The woman is described as being between five-foot-two and five-foot-six, possibly in her mid-20s to early 40s, with shoulder-length, wavy blue-black hair and a slight frame.

The victim also had a number of caps on her front, top teeth, which could be very identifiable to her family and friends, Pound said.

Dr. Bill Inkster, with the B.C. Coroners Service, said the victim also had broken two of her mid-back vertebrae at least six months — or up to several years — prior to her death.

Pound won't say how the woman died, but said her body — which someone made apparent attempts to hide from public view — could have been on the site for months or even years.

"At the end of the day, we need to identify this woman, we need to notify her family and we need to get down to what actually occurred leading up to her death," Pound said.

1 NEWS

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Bust. 20 kilograms of ecstasy seized after tip from U.S. border patrol: Cops

Langley RCMP claim they've seized more than $1 million worth of ecstasy from a man attempting to illegally cross the border.

RCMP were called to the 27200 block of 0 Avenue Tuesday night after receiving a tip from U.S. Border Patrol Services about a suspicious man hiding in a ditch.

At the scene, an RCMP dog and its handler were able to track down and arrest the suspect.

Police allege the suspect had two duffle bags in his possession, with 20 kilograms of the drug MDMA valued at over a $1 million.

Mexican national Samuel Lopez-Rios, 30, is charged with one count each of trafficking a controlled substance and possession for the purpose of trafficking.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Brockton Oval. Damage tops $200K as arsonist strikes Stanley Park

Vancouver fire officials confirm an arsonist struck not once, but twice, in Stanley Park early Wednesday morning.

Capt. Gabe Roder says a garbage can was set ablaze in the Malkin Bowl Road area at around midnight, but the more devastating blaze broke out 20 minutes later in Brockton Oval.

He says the 85-year-old Brockton Oval pavilion has been hit and damage is estimated at $200,000.

Crews had trouble fighting the fire in the old building, which was restored in 1987, because flames had worked their way into the roof.

Police have been searching for a firebug since two blazes in the park earlier this year, including a deliberately set fire on June 22 that destroyed the replica station of the popular miniature train exhibit.

No arrests have been made in connection with any of the fires.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prohibitions

Fire bans in place for most of B.C.

A beautiful end to B.C.'s summer has prompted yet another fire ban, which now means no burning in most of the province.

Fire information officer Lindsay Carnes says conditions are so warm and dry that minor smouldering from lightning strikes over a month ago has grown into fires.

Carnes says those flames were expected to go out with the wet weather that usually leads into the fall.

The latest ban starts Thursday and includes the forest districts of Mackenzie, Fort St. John, Fort St. James, Dawson Creek and Vanderhoof.

Carnes says the latest bans, in addition to other fire bans issued earlier, mean most of the province is covered.

The prohibitions apply to fireworks, campfires and the burning of waste, slash and grass.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bubble artist Fan Yang set the Guinness World Record for the most number of people inside a soap bubble Wednesday at Vancouver's Science World.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Giant bubble bursts into record books

MATT KIELTYKA
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When Fan Yang gets his hands on soap, water and a wand, the result isn't child's play. This man's bubbles are ones for the record books.

The internationally renowned artist racked up his 18th Guinness World Record Wednesday by encapsulating 181 people in a giant 50-metre-long, four-metre-high soap bubble at Vancouver's Science World.

Screams of excitement followed gasps of astonishment from the volunteers as a giant bubble wall rose up and surrounded the volunteers before bursting in spectacular fashion.

The display, guided by Yang's delicate hands at the controls of a pulley system, only lasted a few seconds but was enough to land him yet another triumphant world record.

"It was a huge challenge, I'm very excited," said Yang. "This is such a huge bubble, really once in a lifetime. I had to prepare for six months because it's such a unique system."

Yang, whose family-run Gazillion Bubble Show has been a Broadway mainstay, says his feats evolved from a childhood obsession. "In my childhood imagination, I was so passionate and fascinated with small, tiny bubbles. I always thought how beautiful it would be if I could make a big one and go inside," he said.

"After so many years thinking of the same dream, I was able to find the right mixture, the right solution, to make these big bubbles and have them last longer. It's taken me 30 years to bring this kind of performance to stages around the world."

An official Guinness representative was on hand to confirm the record.

"That is officially a Guinness World Record achievement," said Freddie Hoff, who counted each volunteer as they stepped onto the stage and made sure they were all inside the bubble.

"The record was broken today with 181 people, the previous one was with 125 people."

Yang and his family will be back in Vancouver for the Gazillion Bubble Show at the Centre in Vancouver for Performing Arts Nov. 2, 3 and 4.

Quoted

"This is such a huge bubble, really once in a lifetime. I had to prepare for six months because it's such a unique system." Artist Fan Yang

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On opening night the lights go dark

Novel eats. Restaurant offering blind dining set to welcome foodies

KATE WEBB
kate.webb@metronews.ca

Restauranteur Moe Alameddine is opening Canada's third blind-dining eatery on West 4th Avenue. KATE WEBB/METRO

A unique concept restaurant that literally has the blind leading the blind will open its doors in Kitsilano on Thursday night.

Dark Table — inspired by the original dark restaurant Blindekuh in Zurich, Switzerland — takes its name seriously. It is almost pitch black inside except for the exit sign, and guests are seated and served by wait staff who are all legally blind.

Owner Moe Alameddine says he decided to open his third dark restaurant because he wanted to provide even more opportunities for the blind and partially sighted. He already boasts the successful O.Noir ventures in Montreal and Toronto.

"You don't see blind people working in restaurants, so I said I want to break the rule," he said.

The 75-seat eatery at 2611 West 4th Ave., where Quattro on Fourth used to be, employs nine blind servers and another 15 sighted people who will work in the kitchen and behind the bar.

Tamara Tedesco, 27, is a communications co-ordinator at the CNIB by day, but she will be working at Dark Table two nights a week to make some extra cash.

She says while she loves her desk job, she is thrilled to have the opportunity to do something more active.

"A part of me sort of feels like I missed out on that part of life," she said of working in the service industry. "I've been blind since birth and I've always felt like serving is one of those jobs that most people have at some point."

She and her fellow guide servers underwent two months of rigorous training to prepare for Thursday's opening, which Alameddine jokingly compared to "army training."

"The safety and comfort of customers is really important," Tedesco said.

"We had to learn how to present things to them and let them know that it's dark inside the restaurant, that there aren't any stairs or obstacles to worry about, and that we're there to assist them with anything they need."

Her boss at the CNIB says the restaurant will provide much-needed employment opportunities for the blind, who have a 65 per cent unemployment rate in B.C. compared to just seven per cent for the general population.

The eatery serves Mediterranean fusion cuisine, including steak, shrimp, pasta, veal, chicken and a couple of "surprise" options, which Alameddine says are most popular with diners because "people like to go all the way with the experience."

Saturday's first service is already booked, and reservations are recommended as seats are filling up fast.

Follow Kate Webb on Twitter @MetroK8

Interested?

- **What:** Dark Table
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Wildlife centre helped save seals marked for death

A seal pup spared from execution. ISLAND WILDLIFE NATURAL CARE CENTRE

Everyone at the Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre (IWNCC) on Salt Spring Island let out a collective sigh of relief on Tuesday after the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) announced that it would spare the lives of two six-month-old harp-seal pups.

"(DFO has) done a 360, they really have, and I have to tip my hat to them. It's really, really hard for a big bureaucracy to turn on a dime, as you probably know," said Jackie Ballerone, a director at IWNCC. "In two short weeks they made a really good call here. It was really 11th-hour, but they did the right thing in the end."

Animal-rights activists from across the world had been lobbying to save the lives of Zac and Mika, who were initially slated for death on Sept. 15. They had been placed at the Aquarium des Iles-de-la-Madeleine in Quebec by the DFO.

It's a practice that's been going on for 25 years, according to Ballerone.

Every year a pair of seals is captured, put on display and released back into the ocean when tourist season ends. But this year, due to DFO's "new policy" changes, and saying the pair posed a threat to other marine mammals, it ordered the aquarium to euthanize them.

After nearly two weeks of mounting public pressure from groups and thousands of animal lovers — the IWNCC launched a worldwide petition on sealrescue.org that collected more than 140,000 signatures — the DFO reversed its decision and is now allowing the aquarium to release the pups.

The time and location of the release has not been set yet. Ballerone says she's not sure whether it'll be a public event, noting that many people have already expressed interest in witnessing the release.

PHOEBE HO/FOR METRO

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Court to rule on sex workers' right to challenge prostitution laws

Laws. Decision from country's top judges will be known Friday

KATE WEBB
kate.webb@metronews.ca

The Supreme Court of Canada will hand down a final decision Friday on whether a former sex worker and a group representing sex workers in the Downtown Eastside have the right to challenge Canada's criminal laws on adult prostitution.

Sheryl Kiselbach, who worked in the sex trade for 30 years, and the Downtown Eastside Sex Workers United Against Violence Society (SWUAV) launched a legal challenge in 2007 that has been going back and forth in the courts ever since.

They want the chance to argue that sections of the Criminal Code prohibiting soliciting sex in public, keeping a common bawdy house and transporting someone to a common bawdy house violate their Charter rights to freedom of expression, freedom of association, security of the person and equality.

The attorney general's council has argued the case should only be made as a constitutional defence against a criminal prosecution, or in a civil case launched by an individual sex worker.

The Pivot Legal Society's Katrina Pacey, who represents the sex workers, says such narrow parameters would put sex workers in an impossible and unsafe position.

"It's a really critical issue around access to justice more generally because there are many marginalized groups that would struggle to be in this type of high-profile and controversial litigation," Pacey said Wednesday.

The attorney general appealed the B.C. Court of Appeal's 2010 decision that gave Kiselbach and SWUAV "public-interest standing," which is only granted in cases in which there is no other reasonable and effective way for serious issues to come before court.

Pacey says that standing is necessary in this case because it provides the sex workers, who are stigmatized and unlikely to proceed without it, with much-needed support, stability and anonymity.

"It's the government using enormous resources to try to stop small, social-justice groups from having their day in court," she said. "It's an incredible misuse of tax dollars, and they're really trying to deprive very marginalized women from having their opportunity to have their rights respected."

The decision will be made public at 6:45 a.m. on Friday. Pacey, Kiselbach and SWUAV plan to hold a news conference at 8 a.m.

Follow Kate Webb on Twitter @MetroK8

Sheryl Kiselbach, left, who worked in the sex trade for 30 years, and her lawyer Katrina Pacey want the right to fight Canada's prostitution laws. JEFF HODSON/METRO FILE

Clark defends axing fall session to talk to 'real people'

Premier Christy Clark JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

Despite a growing chorus of critics, Premier Christy Clark says there will not be a fall session of the legislature in British Columbia.

The Liberal leader is under fire because her government has faced the NDP Opposition in the legislature for just 47 days this year, and over remarks she made in an interview last spring that referred to the seat of government as a "sick culture" devoid of "real people."

Clark defended her comments Wednesday, saying she is out travelling the province, talking to voters and business leaders about what they need from government.

"My point was when a politician sits on the grounds of the legislature and spends most of their time there, they're talking to pundits and they're talking to each other. You cannot build a government that responds to the needs of British Columbians if you're not out there listening to them," she told reporters following an announcement in Richmond.

Quoted

"The reality is that the B.C. government has sat dramatically less under this government consistently than any other government in B.C. history, at least in the modern era since we've had full-time MLAs."
NDP Leader Adrian Dix

The people complaining about the lack of a fall session are the people who "like to spend a lot of time in the legislature talking to each other, and talking to politicians and talking to pundits," she said.

"I think they're wrong."

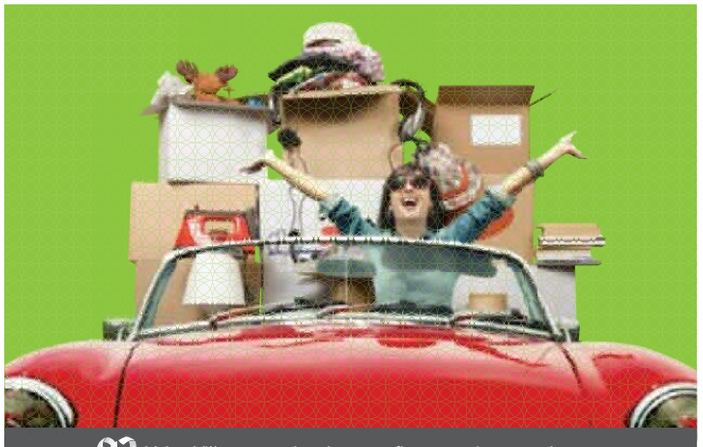
Clark said the legislature can become an enclosed bubble.

"We have to get out of the precincts of the legislature and really listen to people," she said.

Her critics say she's certainly done a lot of that.

The B.C. legislature last convened on May 31. A spring session normally begins in mid-February, so by the time politicians return to question period next year, it will have been eight months since any government initiatives were debated under the umbrella of parliamentary rules and regulations.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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‘A-Team’ rises to back Cummins as leader

B.C. Conservative Party. New cast attempts to establish credibility for current party leader

First it was “Friends” and now the “A-Team.”

This weekend’s British Columbia Conservative Party annual general meeting is starting to sound like an old sitcom reunion rather than an attempt by an upstart political party to cast itself as a credible alternative to Premier Christy Clark’s Liberals.

Members will decide this weekend whether to hold a leadership review, and if approved, party Leader John Cummins would have to step down while a leader is chosen.

Cummins shrugged off internal threats to his leadership Wednesday, saying there would always be party members unhappy about the direction the party was taking.

“I think that’s a normal course of events in any party,” he said. “There’s always going to be some folks that aren’t particularly satisfied with the way things are going.”

Vancouver Island’s Al Siebring, an unabashed Cummins supporter, said he’s put together the so-called A-Team to support his bid to become party president.

Quoted

“We (have) to re-establish some credibility that has been damaged by these few noisy individuals.”

Al Siebring, a staunch Cummins supporter

Siebring’s eight-member slate faces a challenge from Ben Besler, who leads a group called the Friends of the B.C. Conservative Party. Besler, a current party vice-president, wants party members to vote in favour of a leadership review.

Besler said he’s been sending emails to Conservative members calling on them to vote in favour of the leadership review.

The emails express concerns about Cummins’ leadership style, his relations with the party’s only member of the legislature John van Dongen, the party’s third-place finishes in two recent byelections and Cummins’ $4,000-a-month stipend.

Siebring said he decided to launch his A-team to give party members an alternative to Besler’s Friends slate, which has been causing “general turmoil over the leadership.” THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. Conservative Party Leader John Cummins.
DAVID PROCTOR/METRO FILE

West Kelowna. Food bank stripped of charitable status after tax review

A food bank in West Kelowna, B.C., has been stripped of its charitable status by the Canada Revenue Agency.

According to a letter from the CRA, Bette’s Single Family and Seniors Food Bank violated numerous sections of the Income Tax Act.

The CRA says more than $45,000 in cash donations was spent on president Bette Ladd’s wages, car and cellphone in 2008.

Only $19,626, or 20 per cent of cash donations, went to food.

The CRA also says it could not determine if expense receipts were related to the food bank or Ladd, and many receipts were for non-typical items such as shampoo, dog food or single purchase items.

Ladd says she is appealing the decision.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Long wait times. B.C. anesthesiologists ask to join health-care case

A group of B.C. anesthesiologists are asking to join a constitutional challenge of the province’s ban on private health care.

The British Columbia Anesthesiologists’ Society has filed an affidavit with the B.C. Supreme Court asking to intervene in a case launched by a controversial private clinic operator in Vancouver.

The society says it wants to argue in court that the public health-care system is failing patients, particularly when it comes to surgical wait times.

The society’s executive director, Dr. Roland Orfaly, says his group isn’t taking a position on whether there should be more private care, but says whatever happens the public system needs to be fixed.

Orfaly says the public system isn’t meeting the needs of patients, and he accuses the government of manipulating wait-times data in the media to paint a more favourable picture.

The B.C. Anesthesiologists’ Society, which represents some, but not all, of the province’s anesthesiologists, has been in a long-standing labour dispute with the province that has focused on staffing levels and pay.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Protesters show rage over prison abuse video

Culprits to be punished. Video showing prisoners being raped with police truncheons and broom handles spark street protests

Videos showing the abuse of prisoners in Georgia have sparked street protests and an exchange of harsh accusations between the government and the opposition ahead of parliamentary elections.

Hundreds of protesters blocked traffic in the centre of the capital, Tbilisi, in the overnight hours after two television stations aired graphic videos Tuesday of guards abusing prisoners, including the footage in which prisoners are raped with police truncheons and broom handles.

President Mikhail Saakashvili, whose party is facing a tough opposition challenge in the Oct. 1 parliamentary elections, quickly pledged to punish all the culprits and completely reshuffle prison personnel.

A cabinet minister in charge of the country's penitentiary system stepped down, and prosecutors said they arrested 12 prison officials in the case.

The president discussed the incident with government officials, saying that hundreds of prison guards in all Georgian prisons would be temporarily suspended pending an official probe and immediately replaced by police.

He said the nation's penitentiaries have suffered a "systemic failure."

Officials blamed Saakashvili's foes for the videos.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

High-level outrage

"Everyone who has masterminded it, everyone who has perpetrated it, everyone who has done it and allowed it to happen deserves the strictest — I repeat, the strictest — punishment."

Mikhail Saakashvili, president of Georgia

Space shuttle Endeavour heads for retirement in L.A.

Joey Morrison adjusts his space helmet after watching the shuttle aircraft carrier, a modified 747, with space shuttle Endeavour atop, land Wednesday in Houston. Endeavour is off to the California Science Center in Los Angeles, where it will be permanently displayed. DAVID J. PHILLIP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Romanian bear attacks

Two men killed, others injured in separate attacks

A man was killed by a bear in the woods outside a Romanian village, the second fatal bear attack in the area. A rescue official said the latest victim, a man, 64, was found dead on Wednesday, 100 km northwest of Bucharest. A man, 71, was found dead Saturday, and two people were injured after being attacked the same day.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

L.A. murder trial

Chef boiled his dead wife's body for four days

A chef on trial for his wife's murder told sheriff's investigators that they couldn't find his wife's body because he had cooked it for four days in boiling water until little was left but her skull. Los Angeles Superior Court jurors on Tuesday heard David Viens make the statements in a taped interview. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anti-Semitic attack

Bomb explodes at kosher grocery in Paris suburb

A small package bomb exploded inside a kosher grocery store in a Paris suburb Wednesday, wounding at least one person, according to an agency that tracks anti-Semitic attacks in France. The reason for the attack was unclear, but it rattled nerves amid global tensions surrounding a U.S.-produced film insulting to Islam. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Buckingham, Quebec

Man charged in gas theft and fire

A lighter is not a good substitute for a flashlight when dealing with gasoline

Gatineau police arrested Pierre-Luc Bastien-Thériault, 20, on charges of arson, mischief over $5,000 and theft under $5,000 in connection with a nearly fatal Aug. 27 blaze that destroyed four cars and damaged two others at a car dealership in Buckingham, Que.

METRO IN OTTAWA

Quebec independence top issue for PQ

Sovereigntist stripes.
Minister responsible for making Quebec more independent appointed

The newly installed Parti Québécois government wasted no time showing its sovereigntist stripes by appointing, on its first day in office, a minister responsible for advancing the cause of Quebec independence.

A unique new portfolio of minister for "sovereigntist government" was among the cabinet titles handed out as Premier Pauline Marois took office and introduced her ministry Wednesday.

The man with that title has a doctorate in constitutional law and knows the rest of Canada far better than most Pequistes: 35-year-old Alexandre Cloutier worked as a clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada and lectured at the University of Ottawa, in addition to studying at Cambridge University in the U.K.

Quoted

"Remaining a province of Canada has become an unacceptable risk."
Pauline Marois, Quebec premier

The party has promised to introduce policies that could butt up against Canadian constitutional law, confront the federal government for a transfer of powers, and use each case as evidence of how Quebec would be better off on its own. "It is imperative to advance with force our interests, to promote our identity — not as a province but as a nation," said Marois Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec Premier Pauline Marois after being sworn in on Wednesday.
JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Election-night shooting.
Accused gunman speaks out from jail hospital

The accused killer who allegedly ruined the Parti Québécois election-night celebration is speaking out from his jailhouse — just as the new government is being sworn in.

Montreal radio station CJAD reported that Richard Henry Bain phoned its newsroom from his prison infirmary on Wednesday to say that he believes the city should separate from the province.

It says they interviewed him for half an hour, but chose to only run a brief snippet.

In a clip that aired, Bain is heard sharing his view that Montreal should separate from the rest of Quebec because, in his opinion, that might help ensure greater peace between anglophones and francophones.

"My vision is that the island of Montreal separate to become its own province," Bain said.

The radio station says Bain placed the call without his lawyer's knowledge.

The businessman faces a charge of first-degree murder in connection with the shooting that took place only metres from where the PQ premier-designate Pauline Marois was giving her victory speech.

One man was killed and another was wounded.

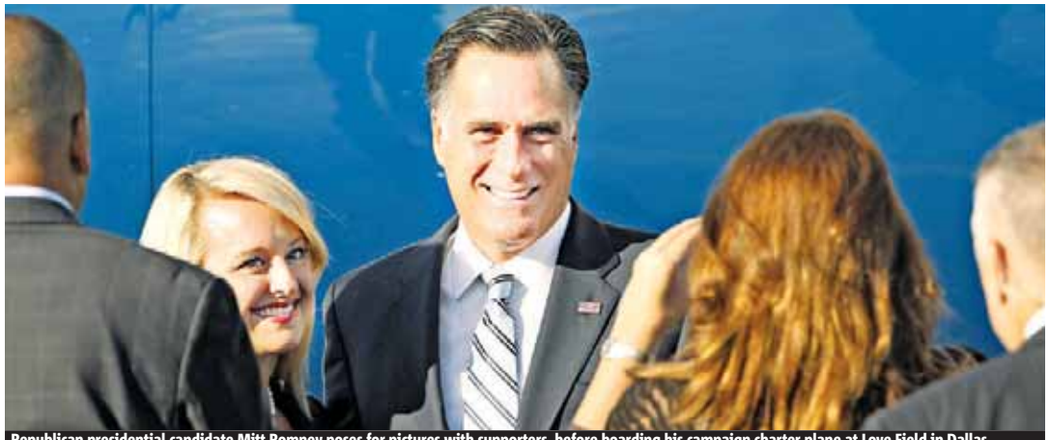
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jean Charest exits office

Outgoing Quebec Premier Jean Charest waves goodbye as he leaves the lieutenant-governor's office Wednesday at the legislature in Quebec City. New premier Pauline Marois was sworn in later in the afternoon. JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Democrats malign Romney for latest public-relations disaster

U.S. Election.
Republicans weary as Mitt Romney's string of summer blunders weakens his campaign



Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney poses for pictures with supporters, before boarding his campaign charter plane at Love Field in Dallas, Wednesday. G.J. MCCARTHY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republicans are in apparent panic mode in the wake of Mitt Romney's very bad summer, particularly over the latest firestorm engulfing his campaign after he was secretly filmed deriding almost half of Americans as government mooches.

Several Senate Republicans in tight battles against Democrats were quick to publicly distance themselves from Romney's four-month-old remarks that the 47 per cent of Americans who don't pay income tax are freeloaders who expect Uncle Sam to take care of them.

In fact, most of those 47 per cent don't make enough money to pay income tax or are seniors or military veterans on government assistance. They also pay payroll and other taxes.

Romney was attempting to explain to the US$50,000-a-plate fundraiser why a certain segment of Americans won't vote for him.

On the campaign trail on Wednesday, Romney once again took pains to explain himself.

"(Obama) really believes in what I'll call a government-centred society," he said in Atlanta, accusing Obama of advocating the redistribution of wealth in America. "I know there are some who believe that if you simply take from some and give to others, then we'll all be better off. It's known as redistribution. It's never been a characteristic of America ... I believe the way to lift people, and help people have higher incomes, is not to take from some and give to others but to create wealth for all."

Nonetheless the silence was deafening on the Senate floor on Wednesday when Democrats maligned Romney for his latest public relations disaster. Republican senators offered up no defence of their candidate for the White House.

"This week we learned that Mitt Romney only wants to be president of half of the United States," said Senate majority leader Harry Reid, a thorn in Romney's side ever since he alleged in the same chamber earlier this summer that the millionaire presidential hopeful didn't pay income tax for 10 years.

"He'll only worry about how the other half lives, I guess."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"He'll only worry about how the other half lives, I guess."

Senate majority leader Harry Reid on how he assumes Mitt Romney is bent on leading only the wealthier half of the United States.

Photo-op: Mars Curiosity rover wows earthlings

On Mars, a partial eclipse of the sun isn't quite as rare as on Earth. So NASA's Mars Curiosity rover is snapping hundreds of pictures of the spectacle for the folks back home to ooh and aah over.

Two moons zip around the red planet and they're closer and faster than our lumbering moon, so eclipses are more common. Scientists say there's even somewhat of an eclipse season on Mars, and it's that time of year when those Martian moons take turns taking bites of the sun.

Curiosity turned its cameras skyward to watch the action in three different eclipses, starting last week and continuing Wednesday, when a moon partially slipped between Mars and the sun.

The rover has been beaming back a stream of photos of the Martian landscape since landing near the equator last month.

Texas A&M University scientist Mark Lemmon said the eclipse pictures will help scientists track the fate of the larger Martian moon, Phobos, which is slowing down in its orbit around Mars. In 10 to 15 million years, Phobos will get so close to Mars it will break up and crash into the planet.

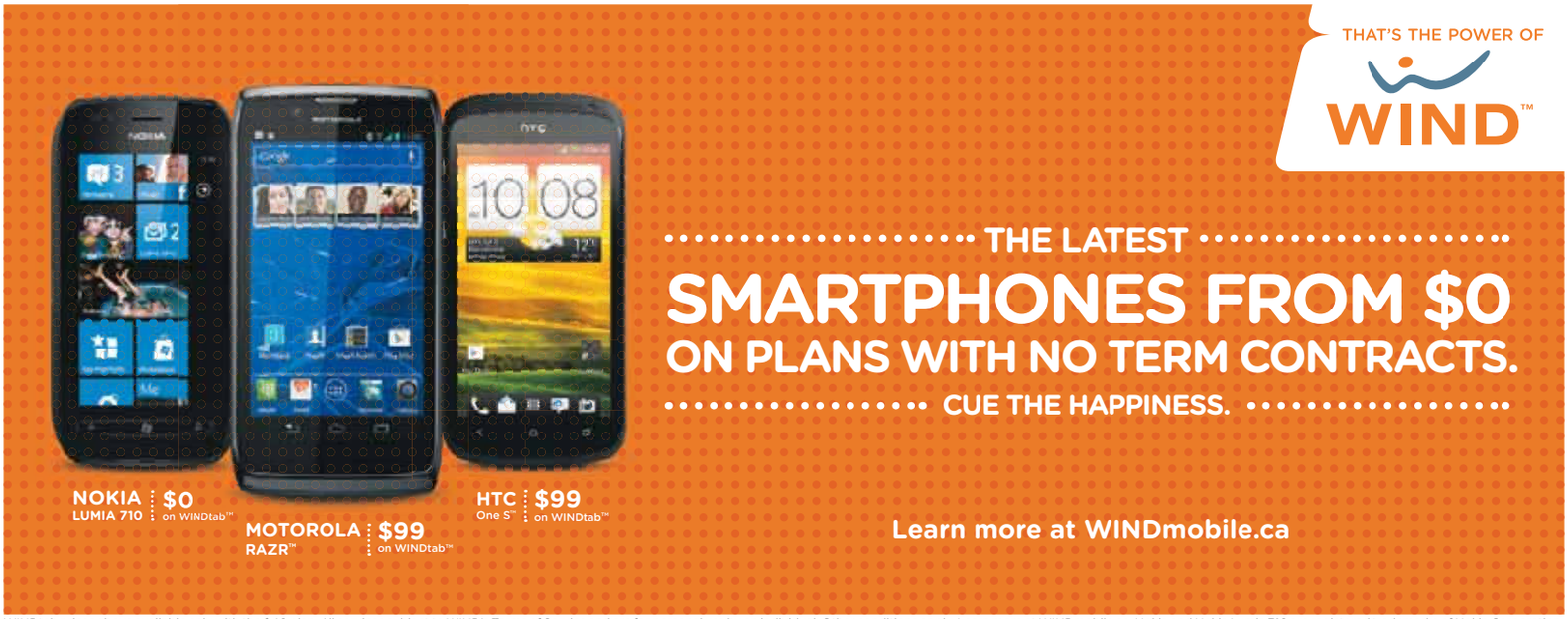
These moons aren't mere curiosity factors. They get so close to Mars that "they change Mars' shape ever so slightly" with their pull, Lemmon said.

Past rovers have taken pictures of solar eclipses from Mars, but not with such good cameras that take high resolution photos and so many shots that it produces a movie of sorts, Lemmon said.

And now that Curiosity has gazed skyward, it's time for the Mini Cooper-sized spacecraft to focus on the ground. On Friday, Curiosity will test its first rock with a laser and other chemical testing kits on the end of its robotic arm.

Its first target is a pyramid-shaped dark rock, about 10 inches tall and 16 inches wide at the base. Two of the arm's chemical-sniffing devices will snuggle up against the rock — named for Jake Matijevic, a Mars rover engineer who died recently — so scientists can figure out what it is made of.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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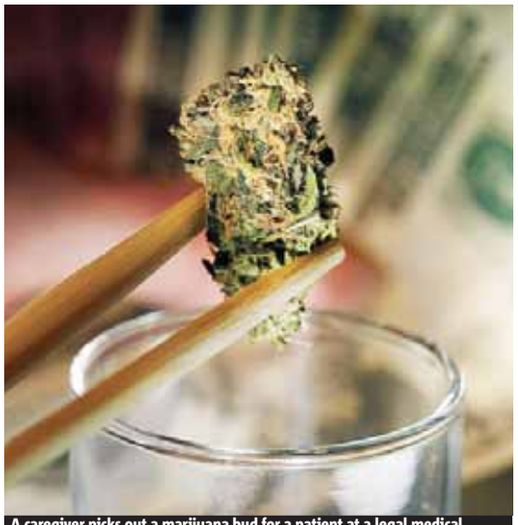


A caregiver picks out a marijuana bud for a patient at a legal medical marijuana dispensary in Denver, Colo. ED ANDRIESKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Three states considering legalizing marijuana

Tax revenues a key selling point. How feds — who consider pot illegal — will react is anyone's guess

A catchy pro-marijuana jingle for Colorado voters considering legalizing the drug goes like this: "Jobs for our people. Money for schools. Who could ask for more?"

It's a bit more complicated than that in the three U.S. states — Colorado, Oregon and Washington — that could become the first to legalize marijuana this year.

The debate over how much tax money that could produce is playing an outsized role in campaigns both for and against legalization.

Looming above that issue is how the federal government will respond, since it considers the drug illegal.

Pro-pot campaigners say legalizing marijuana could help struggling states with new taxes on the drug and reduced criminal justice costs. But state government skeptics warn legalization would lead to costly legal battles and expensive new bureaucracies to regulate the drug.

The biggest unknown: Would the federal government allow legal marijuana?

When California voters considered marijuana legalization in 2010, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder warned that the federal government would not allow a state marijuana market in defiance of federal drug law. Holder vowed a month before the election to "vigorously enforce" federal marijuana prohibition. Voters rejected the measure. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

As it stands

Legality of personal-use marijuana possession by state:

- **Illegal:** Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Maryland*, New Jersey, New Mexico*, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Wyoming
- **Misdemeanour:** Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky
- **Decriminalized:** Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Virginia
- **No state-wide policy:** Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

*excluding medical usage

Dangerous driving

Day parole for man who killed five

An Alberta man convicted of killing five people when he smashed his cement truck into the back of their car has been granted day parole.

Daniel Tschetter, 55, had already been spotted driving dangerously before his truck slammed into a vehicle stopped at a red light in Calgary in December 2007. The impact was so violent that pieces of the car were scattered for hundreds of metres along Macleod Trail.

He was sentenced in October 2009 to 5 1/2 years in prison for manslaughter and obstruction of justice. He is also banned from ever driving a commercial vehicle again.

Tschetter made another bid for parole Wednesday during a hearing at the Drumheller Penitentiary.

Tschetter was denied full parole, but was granted permission to live in a halfway house. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RCMP

Taser use, threats declining rapidly

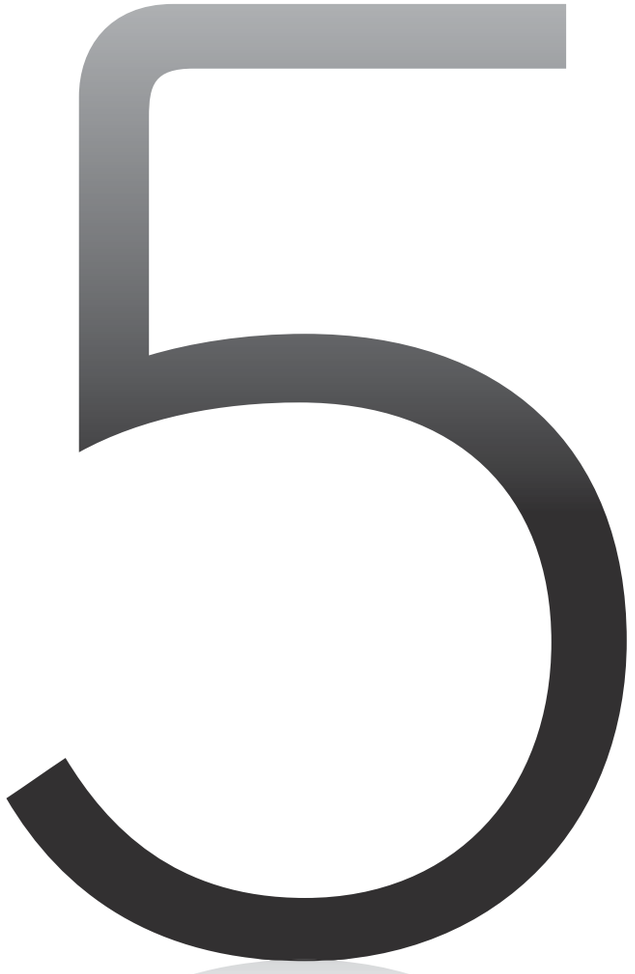
An RCMP watchdog found that threatened or actual use of the Taser by RCMP officers dipped 14 per cent from 2009 — continuing a downward trend.

In addition, the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP says actual firing of the Taser declined by more than one-quarter from the previous year.

The commission examined 597 reports filed by officers who either used their Taser or pulled it out of a holster.

Brewing concerns about Taser use bubbled over in 2007 when Polish immigrant Robert Dziekanski died at the Vancouver airport after being hit with an RCMP stun gun.

In spring 2010, the Mounties introduced a new Taser policy, saying they would fire them at people only when they're hurting someone or clearly about to do so. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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- 7920 Alaska Rd
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- 1588 West Broadway
- 2154 West 4th
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- Lynn Valley Centre
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KAMLOOPS
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- Lansdowne Village

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- Dilworth Shopping Centre
- Orchard Park Shopping Centre

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- Peachtree Square

PRINCE GEORGE
- Pine Centre

VERNON
- Village Green Mall

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NANAIMO
- Country Club Centre
- Woodgrove Centre

VICTORIA
- 3500 Uptown Boulevard
- Bay Centre
- Hillside Shopping Centre
- Mayfair Shopping Centre
- Westshore Town Centre

Cheeky Charlie spooks France

Nation on alert. Mag's crude, lewd drawings of Prophet Muhammad force French to step up security at embassies across Muslim world

Pakistan embroiled in worldwide anti-Islam film protests: A Pakistani lawyer helps a colleague who fell during a scuffle with police at a demonstration in a diplomatic enclave, an area that houses the U.S. Embassy and other foreign missions, in Islamabad on Wednesday. ANJUM NAVEED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A feisty French satirical weekly forced France to step up security at its embassies across the Muslim world on Wednesday.

The paper, Charlie Hebdo, brazenly revived a formula it has already used to capture attention: Publishing crude, lewd caricatures of Islam's Prophet Muhammad.

Wednesday's issue sparked concerns that France could face violent protests, like the ones targeting the U.S. over a film produced in California, that have left at least 30 people dead.

The Charlie Hebdo drawings — some depicted Muhammad naked and in demeaning or pornographic poses — were met with a swift rebuke by the French government.

The principle of freedom of expression "must not be infringed," Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said on French radio.

But he added: "Is it pertinent, intelligent, in this context to pour oil on the fire? The answer is no."

France ordered its embassies, cultural centres, schools and other official sites to close on Friday — the Muslim holy day — in 20 countries.

It also immediately shut down its embassy and the French school in Tunisia, the site of deadly protests at the U.S. Embassy last week.

Riot police took up positions outside the magazine's offices, which were firebombed last year after it released an edition that mocked radical Islam.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Actress sues

First, riots... and now a lawsuit

An actress who appears in the anti-Muslim film trailer that has sparked riots is suing the filmmaker for fraud and slander.

Cindy Lee Garcia is also asking a judge to order YouTube to take down the 14-minute clip.

Garcia's lawsuit filed Wednesday in Los Angeles claims she was duped by Nakoula Basseley Nakoula, the man behind the film who has been forced into hiding. She was unaware of the film's anti-Muslim content.

The lawsuit says Garcia responded to an ad and thought she was appearing in an ancient Egyptian adventure film.

"The film is vile and reprehensible," Garcia's attorney, M. Cris Armenta, wrote in the document.

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Veteran Kirk Lackie testifies Wednesday. The Crown opposed his appearance on the stand because of a series of run-ins with the law. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Army 'threw away' soldier, panel told

Dramatic testimony. No one checked up on suicidal Afghan veteran, his buddy tells military commission

A former soldier says the military failed to keep a close enough eye on a suicidal Afghan vet the day he killed himself in Edmonton.

Kirk Lackie testified Wednesday at the Military Police Complaints Commission inquiry into Cpl. Stuart Langridge's death. The inquiry was called following complaints from Langridge's family that the investigations into his suicide were botched.

"The truth has not been told," Lackie said at the close of emotional testimony.

He had met Langridge early in their training and formed a bond that later deepened over their shared struggles with addiction.

Lackie said everyone on the base knew about Langridge's struggles with addiction, but dismissed them.

"There's a saying: The army uses you like a tissue paper," Lackie said.

"As soon as they're finished with you, like a tissue paper they throw you away.

"And Stu, was to them, a really dirty tissue paper. They threw him away, but they just didn't want to throw him away, they wanted to scoop him under the carpet."

Langridge was found hanging at Canadian Forces Base Edmonton in March 2008.

Later, Lackie began a series of run-ins with the law, including one incident where he barricaded himself inside his home — with two guns, ammunition and explosives — and told police they'd have to take him out with a shot to the head.

He later surrendered without incident and pleaded guilty on a number of charges. He also pleaded guilty to later incidents involving breaches of his probation and impaired driving.

Lackie was released from the military in 2010.

Over the years, he testified, he tried to tell military personnel what happened the day of Langridge's death but no one ever contacted him. He was finally interviewed last week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"I want Stu's ma and everybody to know the truth."

Kirk Lackie,
testifying in Ottawa on Wednesday.

Scholars in a tizzy. Did Jesus have a wife … or maybe a female disciple?

Was Jesus Christ married? Is a scrap of papyrus suggesting he had a wife authentic?

The questions were talking points among scholars — not to mention ordinary folk — on Wednesday.

Scholars questioned the authenticity and significance of a discovery by a Harvard scholar who reported that a fourth-century fragment of papyrus provided the first evidence that some early Christians believed Jesus was married.

Karen King, a professor at Harvard Divinity School, announced the finding Tuesday at an international congress on Coptic studies in Rome.

Coptic linguist Wolf-Peter Funk said there were "thousands of scraps of papyrus where you find crazy things."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Is it a forgery?

The fragment of papyrus is tiny, measuring four centimetres by eight centimetres, about the size of a small cellphone.

- **Named.** The text, written in Coptic, contains a dialogue in which Jesus refers to "my wife," whom he identifies as Mary.

Bliss in Berkeley

A landmark day for bisexuals

Berkeley, Calif., has become what is thought to be the first U.S. city to proclaim a day recognizing bisexuals.

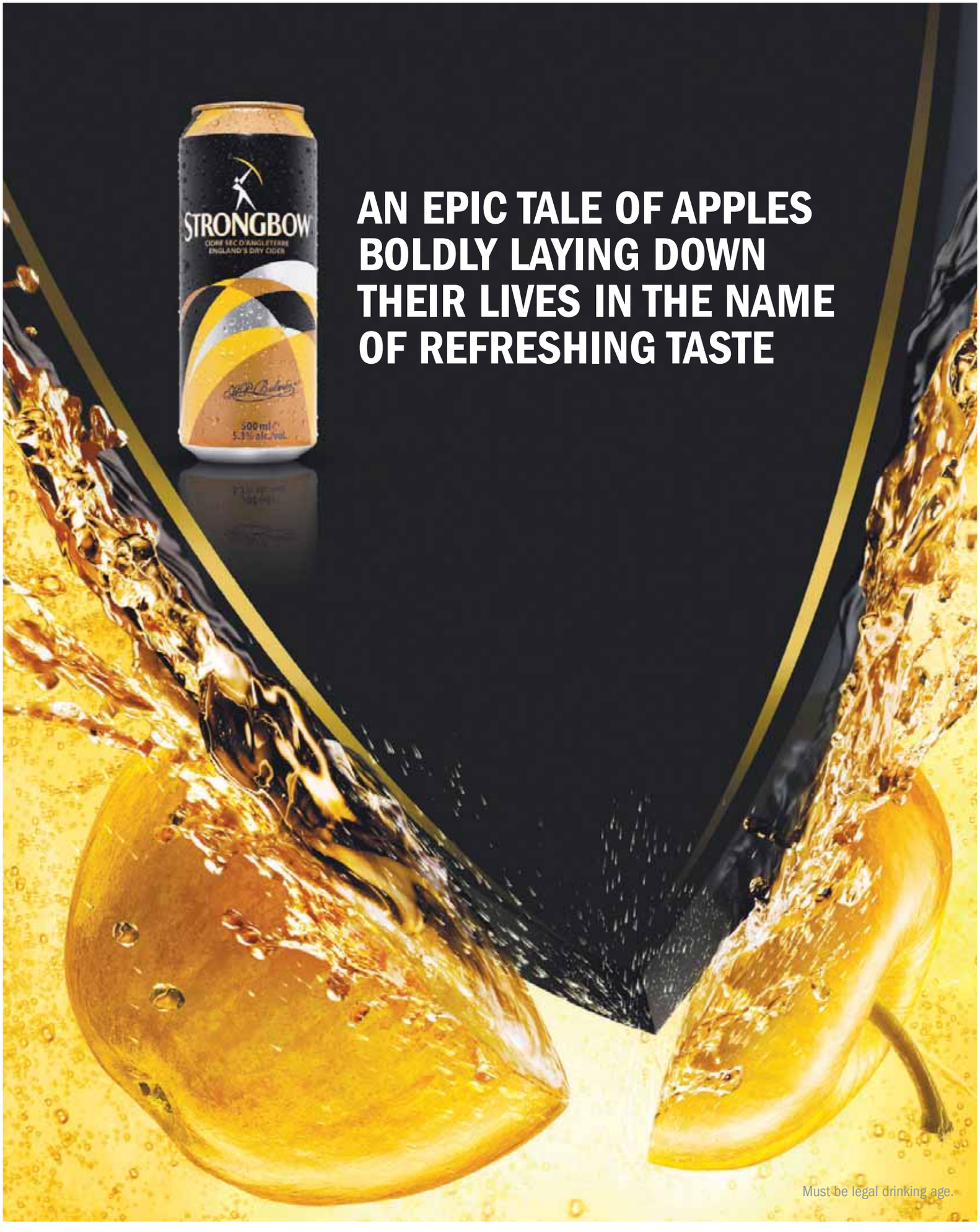
The city council declared Sept. 23 as Bisexual Pride and Bi Visibility Day.

Bisexual-pride events are held in Los Angeles, Boston, Chicago and other cities.

But Berkeley is believed to be the first city that has taken the step of formally acknowledging the day.

The Williams Institute, a think-tank at the University of California, Los Angeles, estimates more than four million Americans identify as bisexual, more than the number who identify as gay, lesbian or transgender.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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U.S. pressured to set standards for arsenic in rice

Consumer Reports. FDA released 200 samples of rice products containing inorganic arsenic after a magazine released its own report

Consumer groups are pressuring the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to set federal guidance on allowable levels of arsenic in rice, prompting the agency to consider possible new standards.

So far, FDA officials say they have found no evidence that suggests rice is unsafe to eat. The agency is studying 1,200 samples of grocery-store rice products — short- and long-grain rice, cereals, drinks and even rice cakes — to measure arsenic levels.

Arsenic is naturally present in water, air, food and soil in two forms: organic and inorganic. According to the FDA, organic arsenic passes through the body quickly and is essentially harmless. Inorganic arsenic — the type found in some pesticides and insecticides — can be toxic and may pose a cancer risk if consumed at high levels or over a long period.

Rice near Alicia, Ark. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The agency on Wednesday released 200 of the expected 1,200 samples after the magazine Consumer Reports released its own study and called for federal standards for arsenic in rice. The FDA will not complete its study until the end of the year, FDA commissioner Margaret Hamburg said.

"Our advice right now is that consumers should continue to eat a balanced diet that includes a wide variety of grains — not only for good nutrition but also to minimize any potential consequences from consuming any one particular food," she said.

The FDA's analysis showed average levels of 3.5 to 6.7 micrograms of inorganic arsenic per serving, while Consumer Reports found levels up to 8.7 micrograms. Consumer Reports tested 223 samples, 23 more than the FDA. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Olympians honoured on Parliament Hill

Prime Minister Stephen Harper presents Olympic kayaker Adam van Koeverden with the Diamond Jubilee medal during a ceremony in the Senate on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Wednesday. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Satanic Verses

Rushdie dismisses new death threat

Salman Rushdie is dismissing the latest threat against his life as just talk. In 1989, Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini declared a Rushdie novel blasphemous and called for his death. Ayatollah Hassan Saneii recently raised the bounty to $3.3 million. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Computer hacking

Former Toyota worker charged

A computer programmer from central Kentucky who once did contract work for Toyota has been charged with hacking into and damaging computers used by the automobile maker. The FBI charged Ibrahimshah Shahulhameed of Georgetown, Ky. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Border breach?

Palestinians arrested in B.C.

Canada Border Services officials are travelling to Kamloops, B.C., to speak to four people after a possible security breach at the Canada-U.S. border south of Vancouver. Kamloops RCMP say two Palestinian men were arrested there Tuesday evening. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Families

9.4M

Canada was home to 9,389,700 "census families" — married or common-law couples, or single parents — in 2011, 5.5 per cent more than in 2006.

Common-law couples

16.7%

For the first time, there were more common-law couples in Canada — 16.7 per cent of all census families — than single-parent families, at 16.3 per cent.

Same-sex couples

42.4%

Same-sex marriage nearly tripled as same-sex couples grew by 42.4 per cent. Same-sex common-law couples grew 15 per cent, compared with 13.8 per cent for opposite-sex common-law couples.

Single parents

8%

Single fathers grew by 16.2 per cent, compared with six per cent for single mothers, as lone-parent families grew eight per cent since 2006. Single mothers still constitute 80 per cent of single-parent families.

Stepfamilies

12.6%

Stepfamilies, counted for the first time in 2011, comprised 12.6 per cent of Canada's 3.7 million couples with children. Nearly 60 per cent were "simple" stepfamilies: families in which the children are the biological or adopted offspring of only one parent.

Foster children

29.5K

The census counted 29,590 foster children aged 14 and under living in private households.

Empty nesters

44.5%

The number of couples without children at home (44.5 per cent) continued to outpace those couples with kids living at home (39.2 per cent).

Exclusively online

- Find out where Canada's highest proportions of single women and men are, the city with the largest number of same-sex marriages and more about your area on our interactive map at metronews.ca

From same-sex couples and single dads to foster kids and empty nesters, the "new normal" of the Canadian family is as diverse as the country itself, Statistics Canada reports. THE CANADIAN PRESS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

GROUNDSHIFT FOR THE

2011 census. There's no such thing as a 'typical' Canadian family, a new report from Statistics Canada shows

The nuclear family is no longer the norm in Canada.

The mom-pop-and-three-kids-under-one-roof model that typified Canadian households of 50 years ago has morphed into a complex and diverse web of family ties involving living alone, remarriage, stepchildren, empty nesters and several generations sharing a home.

Statistics Canada has released the third tranche of new data from its 2011 census, this time portraying the changes in Canadian families and living arrangements over five decades.

Married couples are in a long-term decline, the number of single parents has risen and the size of families has shrunk. In 1961, the average family was 3.9 people, when the baby boom was in full swing. Now it's 2.9.

"We do see more complexity and definitely more diversity in families," Statistics Canada demographer Anne Milan said.

For the first time, Statistics Canada says there are more people living alone in Canada than there are couples with children. One-person households now make up 27.6 per cent of all homes, a three-fold increase since 1961.

Meanwhile, couples with children have continued their decline, down to 26.5 per cent of all households, from 28.5 per cent in 2006.

Just 10 years ago, couples with children under 24 years old made up 43.6 per cent of all families (not including one-person households), by far the most typical kind of family.

Now, parents with children make up just 39.2 per cent of families, and a rising proportion of those parents are not officially married.

For the first time, Statistics Canada zeroed in on children living in foster homes and blended families. In a national count of foster children, the agency revealed there were 29,590 of them under the age of 14 in 2011. A measure of the number of stepfamilies showed that one in 10 children now lives in some sort of blended family.

In 2011, the most typical family was a couple with no children, continuing a pattern spotted in 2006. Statistics Canada found that 44.5 per cent of families have no kids at home, partly reflecting the aging of the baby-boomer bulge, the leading edge of which has started turning 65.

"The modern family is changing, and I think it's a wonderful thing," said Shannon Kennedy, an Ottawa-based wedding planner who finds herself on the front lines of fluctuating living arrangements on a daily basis.

"The rules of a nuclear family just don't apply any more."

The wide variety of family ties is throwing Kennedy for a loop. Emily Post, the guru of etiquette for most of the 20th century, is no longer of much help, she said.

"You don't necessarily have two families. In some cases, you have four families coming together at a wedding.

"Any scenario where you get more than one mom involved, you have to kind of juggle that," she said with a chuckle.

"The best thing about modern weddings is, there are no rules."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Adulthood, interrupted: 'Boomerang kids' are an ongoing trend: Census

It's the home-game grudge match of the 21st century: The baby boomers versus the boomerang kids. And the kids, it seems, are winning.

Canada's nests aren't quite as empty as they were thought to be, data from the 2011 census shows. Some 42.3 per cent of young adults aged 20 to 29 are living with their parents, down slightly from 42.5 per cent in 2006, but still well above the level of 26.9 per cent in 1981.

Christina Newberry was one of them — twice. First, when she was 21, newly graduated from university and trying to find her way in the world. Then again, eight years later, she went back to get her bearings in the midst of a divorce.

"My parents' house became a place to sort of take a chance to regroup and figure out what was next," said Newberry, a Vancouver-based author and freelance writer. "It wasn't even a financial issue, because by then I had a good job and could take care of my own bills. It was more just needing to figure out what to do next."

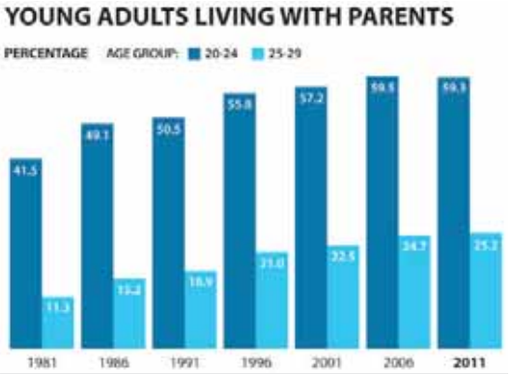
While many young adults in their early 20s stay at home while in college or university — mainly due to a lack of money — those closer to 30 who opt to return tend to do so after a traumatic moment in their lives, such as the breakup of a relationship or the loss of a job, Newberry said. They usually stay just long enough to get back on their feet.

Social attitudes toward young adults living with their parents are changing dramatically, said Rod Beaujot, a demography professor at the University of Western Ontario in London.

"There's the greater acceptability of living with parents when you're older — on the part of the parents, on the part of young people," Beaujot said.

"In the past, living at home was quite constraining on children, because they had to live under their parents' supervision. I think parents are much more open to children having their own life, including, of course, their own love lives, even if they're living at home."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



More young adults are sticking close to the nest. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Full house

The "failure-to-launch" phenomenon is alive and well in Canada, the 2011 census suggests.

- The census found 25.2 per cent of young adults between the ages of 25 and 29 living at home in 2011, up slightly from 24.7 per cent in 2006 — and more than twice the percentage in 1981.
- The number of young adults between the ages of 20 and 24 who lived with their parents remained virtually unchanged from the last census — down to 59.3 per cent in 2011 from 59.5 per cent in 2006.
- Young men are more likely than young women to live at home, Statistics Canada said. One possible reason, the agency suggested, could be because women tend to get into relationships earlier than men, so they move out sooner to start their own households.

FAMILY

FAMILIES BY PROVINCE

	CENSUS FAMILIES	% MARRIED	% COMMON LAW	% LONE PARENT	AVG. # KIDS AT HOME	% PEOPLE LIVING ALONE
CANADA	9,389,700	67.0	16.7	16.3	1.8	27.6
N.L.	159,385	71.7	12.9	15.3	1.6	22.2
P.E.I.	40,850	72.7	11.2	16.1	1.7	25.1
N.S.	270,065	68.5	14.3	17.3	1.7	27.9
N.B.	224,590	67.0	16.0	16.1	1.6	26.0
QUE.	2,203,630	51.9	31.5	16.6	1.7	32.2
ONT.	3,612,205	72.3	10.9	16.7	1.8	25.2
MAN.	327,875	71.0	11.9	17.1	1.9	28.2
SASK.	285,370	71.1	12.5	16.4	1.9	27.9
ALTA.	999,530	72.0	13.6	14.5	1.8	24.7
B.C.	1,238,155	71.7	13.0	15.3	1.7	28.3
YUKON	9,330	54.4	25.1	20.5	1.7	30.7
N.W.T.	10,930	50.0	28.7	21.3	1.9	23.6
NUNAVUT	7,760	39.1	32.7	28.3	2.3	18.2

New census data from Statistics Canada prove there is no such thing as a "generic" Canadian family. The numbers have significant implications for policy makers and social scientists who design programs for foster children, stepkids, single mothers and fathers, senior citizens living alone, "boomerang kids" living with their parents and all the other variations of modern family life. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Same-sex marriage. More gay couples exchanging wedding vows

Seven years after Ottawa gave its blessing to same-sex marriage, it's clear Canada's gay and lesbian couples have been seizing the wedding day.

Same-sex marriage nearly tripled between 2006 and 2011, while the number of same-sex couples jumped 42.4 per cent during the same five-year period, Statistics Canada says.

The agency counted 21,015 married gay and lesbian couples and another 43,560 in common-law relationships. The number is a sizable jump from the 2006 census, which counted same-sex couples for the first time and enumerated 45,350 of them — 7,465 married and 37,885 common-law.

Wider societal acceptance has likely played a role in the rising numbers, said demographer Rod Beaujot of the University of Western Ontario in London.

"It's become more acceptable for people to declare their relationships, including on the census," Beaujot said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Data glitch

Oops — just friends

An unexpectedly high number of same-sex marriages in places like the oilpatch left census-takers scratching their heads — until they realized many of the "couples" were only splitting the rent.

As a result, Statistics Canada said Wednesday, the agency may have overestimated by as many as 4,500 the number of same-sex married couples in parts of the country.

The agency held back some census data on gay and lesbian married couples when they realized they couldn't be certain if some people were married or just roommates.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flying solo. Lone-parent families on rise, with more dads raising kids alone

More Canadians than ever — many of them fathers — are confronting the plight of the single parent in an age of economic uncertainty, the new census suggests.

The number of single parents jumped eight per cent between 2006 and 2011, including a 16 per cent spike in the number of single dads. Single mothers, who still constitute about 80 per cent of all single-parent families in Canada, rose by six per cent.

Lone-parent families represented 16.3 per cent of all census families in 2011, nearly twice the percentage 50 years ago. In 1961, roughly two-thirds of lone parents were widowed, and the rest were divorced or separated, with a small percentage never having been married. Now, half are either divorced or separated. THE CANADIAN PRESS

LONE-PARENT FAMILIES
A look at the Top 10 communities (population 10,000 or more) with the largest proportion of lone-parent families, according to 2011 census data:
6. Prince Rupert, B.C. 23.4%
2. Cape Breton, N.S. 24.7%
1. Prince Albert, Sask. 27.3%
4. Saint John, N.B. 24.3%
10. Sainte-Thérèse, Que. 22.5 %
9. Orillia, Ont. 22.6%
3. North Battleford, Sask. 24.6%
5. Joliette, Que. 23.8%
8. Windsor, Ont. 23.1%
7. Hawkesbury, Ont. 23.2%

Going it alone, from coast to coast. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Black-market bonanza: Canadians dodge sales tax where they can

No guilty feelings. New survey finds that only 30 per cent think it's wrong to avoid tax by paying in cash

The vast majority of Canadians pay taxes each year, but a new survey suggests they are prepared to cheat at the margins if they think they can get away with it.

The survey for H&R Block Canada found 55 per cent of respondents saying that when dealing with a contractor, they would opt to pay cash to avoid sales taxes.

And they are not feeling overly guilty about it either. Only 30 per cent said they thought the avoidance wrong. Among young Canadians aged 18-34, only 17 per cent said it was wrong to avoid paying the sales tax.

The findings don't seem to be related specifically to sales taxes, which range from a low of five per cent in Alberta to a high of 15.5 per cent in Prince Edward Island.

A majority of Canadians believe they shouldn't have to declare bartered transactions, nor do they feel workers in the service industry like waiters and bartenders should need to declare tips as income.

"I think it boils down to people feeling they pay enough tax, that they shouldn't have to pay anymore," said Cleo Hamel, a senior tax analyst with H&R Block.

Another factor may have to do with the recent introduction of the HST combining federal and provincial sales taxes in Ontario and Quebec, which increased the number of services subject to higher combined tax rates.

But Hamel said Canadians should be wary of cheating the tax man. If caught, they are liable not just for the tax, but also penalties that can double the amount owing. The government also has the option of prosecuting tax cheats.

The online survey of 1,500 adult Canadians was conducted by Leger Marketing over three days between July 30 and Aug. 1.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Underground economy

Statistics Canada estimated the underground economy amounted to about $36 billion in 2008.

- The agency said underground activities were most prevalent in the construction industry, retail trade and accommodation and food services.
- The good news is that as a percentage of the economy, the agency said, evidence suggests underground activities declined from 2.7 per cent of gross domestic product in 1992 to 2.2 per cent in 2008.

Swiped! Groupon launches card-reader attachment

Groupon launched a new payment service Wednesday that allows businesses to run credit cards using an iPhone or iPod Touch, thus becoming the latest company to seek a portion of that growing market. It will go up against EBay Inc.'s PayPal unit and Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey's Square, which also allow merchants to swipe credit cards on their phones using a small card-reader attachment. GROUPON

South Africa

Wage agreement ends deadly mining strike

Lonmin Platinum's 28,000 miners celebrated a wage deal Wednesday that ended a deadly strike in South Africa. At Marikana, the location of the protracted strike, thousands gathered and sang the national anthem in piercing heat. Many workers said they were happy to return to work Thursday, and glad that the strike that saw 45 people killed has finally come to an end.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Forbes 400 list

Gates is still richest American

Microsoft Corp. co-founder Bill Gates remains the richest man by far on the Forbes 400 list for the 19th year running, with a net worth of $66 billion US.

Social media moguls took the biggest hit. Zynga Inc.'s Mark Pincus and Groupon Inc.'s Eric Lefkofsky dropped off the list entirely, and Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg was the biggest dollar loser in Forbes' latest ranking of the 400 wealthiest Americans.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Air Canada close to releasing low-cost-carrier details

Air Canada says it is a couple of weeks away from announcing details for a separate low-cost airline that will serve transatlantic and leisure routes in the Caribbean and the United States.

Michael Rousseau, the airline's chief financial officer, told a CIBC investment conference on Wednesday that the carrier will be wholly owned by Air Canada, but carry a different name.

"It is a very exciting initiative, not just for Air Canada, but our employees as well because it does provide growth opportunities for us," he said.

About half of the incremental profits from the low-cost carrier will be derived from cramming more seats into a fleet of 20 Boeing 767s and 30 Airbus A319s. The rest comes from lower employee wages and more flexible work rules.

The wide-body planes, for example, will be fitted with 20 per cent more seats, raising the number of passengers to 275 per aircraft.

The new business model will open the low-cost carrier to new routes in Europe that currently aren't cost-competitive for Air Canada, and allow it to be more competitive on Caribbean and some U.S. destinations.

"The majority of the transatlantic routes will be in fact growth routes for us that we think we can make adequate if not very strong returns," Rousseau said.

Its approach to the leisure market is more defensive, he added, with some routes switching to the low-cost carrier to improve margins.

Rousseau warned that the new low-cost carrier will be launched in 2013, but won't have a material impact on Air Canada's results until it ramps up to the full fleet of 50 planes.

Meanwhile, he says Air Canada is working on several other initiatives to build its profits after completing gruelling labour negotiations that lasted longer than it had anticipated.

Rousseau downplayed suggestions of lingering friction between the company and unionized employees following the labour disputes. He said there wasn't any increase in pilots booking off sick days after the arbitrator ruled in favour of the airline.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"We don't have a difficult relationship with the vast majority of our employees."

Michael Rousseau, Air Canada's chief financial officer, blaming the media for portraying lingering friction between the company and unionized employees

Market Minute

DOLLAR 102.62¢ (+0.01¢)

TSX 12,436.16 (+13.45)

OIL $91.98 US (-$3.31)

GOLD $1,771.70 US (+$0.50)

Natural gas: $2.762 US (- 1¢)
Dow Jones: 13,577.96 (+13.32)

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Boob-tube bling. Sony launches $25K television

For the wealthy gadget lover who has everything, or the most eager of early adopters, Sony will release a Canadian exclusive in time for Christmas: a new astronomically priced TV that represents the first step into a new ultra high-resolution format.

It's called 4K TV, a technology that promises four times the resolution of the HD picture consumers are now used to watching. For the price of a down payment on a condo, consumers can pick up Sony's top-of-the-line 84-inch 4K LCD TV. That's $25,000 — plus tax, of course.

Much like when plasma TVs were first released and were mostly sold to businesses or the very wealthy, Sony isn't expecting a huge rush on its new model, admits spokesman Michael Neujahr.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"There's not going to be an awful lot of consumers buying this TV."

Sony spokesman Michael Neujahr

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AN UNTAPPED MARKET: SONG SEQUELS

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

If you're looking to make it big in the music industry, I've got just the solution.

Hard work? Talent? Originality? Excuse me while I take a drink so I can spit it out in a comedic fashion.

No, my idea will work precisely because it is so lazy and unoriginal: sequels. We need to write song sequels.

Think about it. What industry, like music, has less to do with skill and more to do with giving the mouth-breathers what they want? The movie industry, of course.

And there's no more sure a bet at the movies than a sequel. Of the top-10-grossing movies so far this year, eight were sequels, reboots or adaptations.

If the movie industry can have a huge hit with Ice Age 4, just imagine what the music industry can do with future hits like Mr. Tambourine Man 2: Electric Boogaloo. Here are a few ideas to get you started.

Song ideas 2: Seems to me I've heard this song before ...

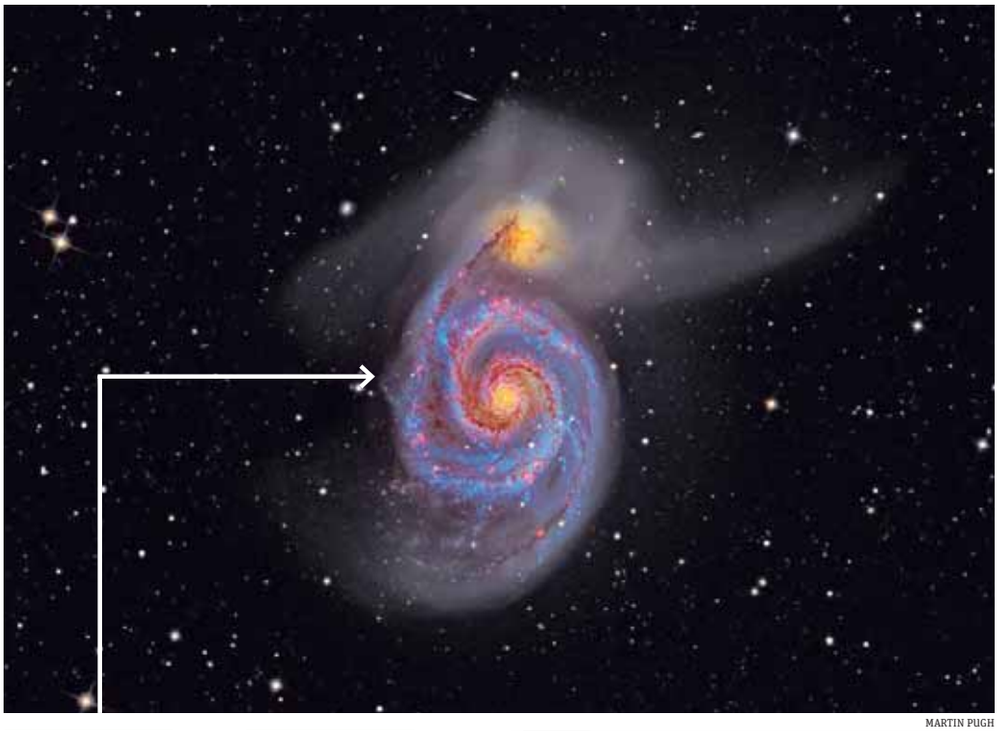
- Call Me Maybe 2: Call Me Maybe-er: In this romantic romp, a mysterious stranger gives Carly Rae Jepsen HIS number. Will she stay with Mr. Ripped Jeans, or run off with the "new guy/who makes me feel so high?" Maybe both!
- In the Year 2526: Man is still alive … but for how long?
- Psycho Killer Episode I: The Phantom Menace: In this much-anticipated prequel, we learn that the psycho killer was once a young whiny teenager who had infinite potential but was portrayed by a terrible actor. The bridge is something about a tax dispute.
- Rock and Roll Part 2, Part 2: Same as Part I, except the "Hey!" is spoken solemnly by Morgan Freeman, for a touch of gravitas.
- The Boxer 2: The Whores on Seventh Avenue: You think you know the full story, but you don't. Listen to the story of a boxer and fighter by trade, from the vantage point of the Pretty Woman who loves him! But will she "lie lie lie" to get him?
- 100 Problems: Jay-Z has no problems with his girl, but he wasn't counting on ... a new baby! Feel bad for his daughter.
- Johnny Be Even Better!: Johnny is now a man and the leader of a big old band. But as people come from miles around, the theatre is slated for demolition. Can Johnny play his way out of this one?
- American Pie Crossover: Hot Cross Buns!: Don McLean sings about making love to an apple pie and grabbing the hot buns of Lady Liberty. The lyrics are cryptic, but you know what he's singin' about! (Wink!)
- Escape From The Bridge Over Troubled Water: The emotional tsunami of the original is replaced by a real tsunami. And, in the shocking climax, either Simon or Garfunkel will die (not Simon).

And there you go. If you use any of my ideas, I will be deeply honoured and flattered. Also, I will be suing for $10 million for theft of intellectual property and loss of livelihood.

So get writing!

A strategic career song for Jay-Z: 100 problems, and a baby is one.
GETTY IMAGES

The deep space whirl



MARTIN PUGH

Astrophotography

Stunning star snap taken by amateur

Australia-based Martin Pugh has been named the Royal Observatory's Astronomy Photographer of the Year.

Pugh's image of the Whirlpool Galaxy (also known as M51), which also won the Deep Space category, was taken using a 43-centimetre-diameter PlaneWave telescope at an observatory in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains. METRO

Galaxy in numbers

37,000,000

light years is how far the Whirlpool Galaxy is from Earth. Pugh acquired his winning photo following a total exposure time of 28 hours.

Q & A

Better than Hubble

Marek, you were one of the competition's judges. What's so special about this image?

The technical skill in capturing the detail, the image's beautifully framed composition, and the sense of the infinite universe. The photographer has made the most of exceptionally good atmospheric conditions to capture an astonishing range of detail in his image of this iconic galaxy: The beautiful spiral structure, dark lanes of dust, and the way the pink clouds of hydrogen really stand out. Here, you can see the small companion galaxy being gradually torn apart by the gravity of its giant neighbour. It's a remarkable achievement by an amateur astronomer. In many ways, it's better than an image by the Hubble telescope.

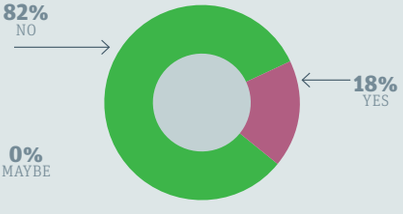
This image is perhaps not the most eye-catching, but because of the amount of fine detail, it's a winner.

MAREK KUKULA
Royal Observatory Public Astronomer

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Will you be lining up for the iPhone 5?



Twitter

@streetcrow: Preen. Nibble foot

@BobRansford: Public talk from #Richmond sports groups confirms my belief that the decision to build the #Olympic #Oval is the City's worst decision ever!

@ianabailey: To recap. What did Premier Clark mean when said Victoria sick place w-out real people? "I meant the grounds of the legislature." #bcpoli

@teamsharkwater: This is amazing!!! RT @sassu_ : @teamsharkwater vancouver is banning Shark Fin!!!! #WINNING

@MayorGregor: #Vancouver economy will have "one of the fastest rates of growth in country" over next 4 years via @ConfBoardofCda report

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Cirque du Soleil's Amaluna comes to Vancouver Nov. 23 at the Big Top at Concord Pacific Place. HANDOUT

Fall offers a cornucopia of events across the city

Transition time. Get out and enjoy some of that crisp weather ... and check out some of the things Vancouver has to offer

BACKSTAGE PASS
Graeme McRanor
vancouver@metronews.ca

Fall: that magical, transitional time of year between summer and rain/sleet/snow/cold.

But before you spiral too far down into the comforting depths of your Snuggie, it should be noted that it's also a choice time to explore (and support) our local arts scene.

Besides, it ain't ski season yet. So what else are you going to do? Surf the Internet? I've already done that for you.

Here's a sampling of what's coming up (besides four months of darkness):

Vancouver International Film Festival (Sept. 27 – Oct. 12)
Nearly 400 films representing 75 countries shown on 10 screens. This is as close to heaven on earth as it gets for local cinephiles. Visit viff.org for more information.

Master Class (Sept. 27 – Oct. 27)
Sure you play the piano, but you're never getting into Julliard. So why not attend Master Class instead? After all, that's where this Tony-Award-winning play is set. The Arts Club production starts at the Granville Island Stage next week until the end of October. Visit artsclub.com for more info.

The Vancouver Writers Fest (Oct. 16 – 21)
Let's be honest: writers do not get enough love. It's the 25th anniversary of this festival (which used to be called the Vancouver International Writers and Readers Festival) and this year, big names such as Margaret Atwood, Alistair MacLeod and Martin Amis will be in attendance. Alas, I will be in India on vacation. Also, I am not a big name. More info at writersfest.bc.ca.

She Stoops to Conquer (Oct. 18 – Nov. 18)
It's described as a bawdy romp. And really, isn't that enough? No? How about romantic tomfoolery? Classic comedy? All of the above? Check it out at the Arts Club's Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage. More info at artsclub.com.

Heart of the City Festival (Oct. 26 to Nov. 6)
The ninth instalment of the Downtown Eastside's signature fest features music, stories, songs, poetry, cultural celebrations, films, theatre, dance, spoken word, workshops, gallery exhibits and more. In fact, more than 80 events at 25 venues. This year's theme: "Voices from the Heart". More at heartofthecityfestival.com.

South Asian Film Festival (Oct. 31 to Nov. 4)
This new film festival takes place in Vancouver, Surrey and Abbotsford and features a collection of recent feature, documentary and animated films from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Afghanistan and the Maldives. More at saffcanada.org.

Cirque du Soleil's Amaluna
Cirque du Soleil's Amaluna: The world-renowned Cirque du Soleil returns to Vancouver Nov. 23 for a limited engagement under the blue-and-yellow Big Top at Concord Pacific Place. The show features 50 artists from 15 countries, 70 per cent of whom are women. "(It's) a tribute to the work and voice of women," explains director of creation Fernand Rainville. "A reflection on balance from a woman's perspective." Tickets on sale now. Visit cirquedusoleil.com for more info.

2 SCENE

On the web

R. Kelly makes Soul Train history as most nominated act ever, Usher leads with 5 nods

If you don't know him, you should

Q&A. Metro recently sat down to chat with Tiësto, the world-famous DJ who is making waves in electronic dance music

MICHELLE CASTILLO
Metro New York

Tiësto, 43, hails from the Netherlands. GETTY PHOTO ORDERED

Calling Tiësto the world's biggest DJ might be a slight understatement. More than one million people across six continents attended his 15-month 2010 Kaleidoscope World Tour, including the final date in Los Angeles where he performed before an audience of 26,000 fans — the most ever in U.S. history for a single DJ event.

That's not to mention his recent compilations and albums Club Life: Volume One Las Vegas, Kiss From The Past, and Club Life: Volume Two Miami, all which have become hits in the dance music world. We caught up with the Dutch DJ at the Electric Zoo Festival in Randall's Island, New York City, to talk about his upcoming tours, his foray into fashion and why his mom's home cooking is the best.

You're about to go on stage at Electric Zoo. What can people who are coming to your show expect.
I thought about it a lot today. I'm going to play a lot of hard stuff. It's outdoors right before the darkness, so I'm going to play a lot of hard stuff and a couple of focal tracks and a few new tracks of mine.

I understand you're going on a U.S. college tour. Why colleges and why that age group?
First of all, it's a great crowd to play for. They're all fresh and hungry for dance music. I think not many people have seen me at that age. I always get a lot of tweets and requests (about) when am I going to play under-18 shows. I can't do that anywhere. This is the closest I can get where I can reach my younger audience.

You have a Guess fashion collection coming up. Tell me a little bit more about what inspired you.
I always liked Guess, and I met Paul Marciano, and I went to dinner with him. He's a big Tiësto fan, and I was always a big fan of his campaigns. So I was like why don't we do anything together? We started thinking about it, and it spontaneously came together very organically.

Is there going to be a lot of dayglo? Neon colours?
No, for the first part of the collection I tried to keep it very basic because I didn't have much experience yet. I didn't want to go to crazy.

So what are we going to see a lot of?
Very basic colours. A nice black leather jacket. Lots of T-shirts. Very simple, but a lot of detail. The women's collection is more exciting than men's.

Have you always been into fashion?
As I started to become a bigger DJ, I became more into fashion. I couldn't afford it back in the day: I had other things on my mind!

I like it when people dress nice, when you see a girl and a guy put in a little effort, it looks good. I really appreciate that.

You're headlining the Staples Center in October. Why did you want to return to L.A.?
It's been a while since I've been in L.A. Staples Center is such an iconic venue, and I've always wanted to play there. It was available that day so I said let's do it!

You're from the Netherlands. When you are on tour what food do you miss the most?
My mom's food of course! She makes very good chicken. She makes chicken with raisins and rice and a special sauce. No one else can make it. It's really good. It's not really Dutch food I think.

Typical Dutch food is snacks.

Coming from the Netherlands, what have you noticed about people around the world?
I noticed that a lot of people are actually the same around the world, but there's just a communication failure. People misunderstand people's culture, but if you really get to the culture, it's really the same around the world. But, because the way you express yourself is different than you do in Europe, people misunderstand you.

I'm not going to make you pick the country with the best fans, but which country has the craziest fans?
I think Mexico. Mexico has crazy fans. When I play there, they have complete squares with my names on it. Crazy fans!

Are you surprised how global electronic music has become?
I'm surprised and so happy. I came to the U.S. in 2000 for the first time and I never thought it was going to be like this.

I was playing in Vegas only three years ago, and I was like, "I would love to have a residency to play every week here because I love Vegas." But, everything was hip-hop. I told the promoter I worked with then, and he said 'Yeah it would be great if you could do it, but it will never happen.' We were both like it will never happen. And it's here.

The song that put you on the map was the remix of the Pirates of the Caribbean theme song. Are you sick of that song now?
Yeah. I must say. I always look at the future. I don't look very much in the past. Everything I did in the past I don't play much anymore. It's such a different time now, a different sound. I miss those days sometimes, but that was then. It was a different period in my life and now I'm here. I don't play Pirates of the Caribbean; I haven't played it in two years. It would be weird to play it now because it doesn't fit my sound. Maybe if I do a complete old school set?

Quote

"I think people in the EDM world are very free and very liberal, that's why it's so attractive to everybody. In general people are so positive. If you go to an EDM festival, there's never fights, there's no violence. People love each other and support the music, and it's the best crowd there is in any music genre."
Tiësto

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MARION CURTIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, STARPIX

WYCLEF JEAN

Wyclef Jean revisits success with The Fugees, setbacks in post-quake Haiti in autobiography

Anyone who needs to catch up with hip-hop star Wyclef Jean just has to refresh his Twitter feed.

"You know I'm direct about everything," says Jean, 42.

Though some things need more than a tweet to explain, so Jean has written an autobiography, Purpose (It Books). On sale this week, the book explores his political, financial and personal turmoil, including an extramarital affair with fellow Fugee Lauryn Hill.

The book opens with Jean hearing the news that a catastrophic earthquake has struck Haiti, the Caribbean country where he was born. The Grammy-winning multimillionaire returned home the next morning, trying to make sense of the chaos and overwhelming loss of life.

He kicked his Yéle Haiti Foundation into overdrive to help survivors, and the urgency to get Haitians back to work drove Jean to announce his candidacy during Haiti's 2010 presidential elections.

Both efforts, though, eventually left him reeling from criticism over his methods and motives. His presidential campaign was cut short, while Yéle faced allegations of financial improprieties that benefited the singer.

In his book, Jean dismisses the problems at Yéle as complications of a small charity's sudden growth. After a restructuring, Jean writes, "We are a completely transparent organization and I invite the world's curiosity."

Do you think you're going to run for president of Haiti again in a couple years?

(Chuckling) ... Keep in mind, right, that y'all always say "My run for the presidency" but there's something you all must add — Wyclef never even got a chance to run for the presidency.

It was sort of like, before I could even spit out who my technicians are, what are my policies, it was like, "Yo, this guy don't have no technicians, this guy don't have no policies, he's not running, get him out!" Right now, it's definitely, like, not in the focus.

How was working on a book different from working on an album?

It takes you back to a place and to a time. I always tell people, the easiest thing for me in the book was talking about The Fugees. Because, you know, you're young, you're rock and roll.

The hardest thing in the book was probably talking about my relationship with my dad.

Growing up in a Christian household and then defying that and saying I'm going to be a rapper, and after they bring you from Haiti and the expectations, what they expect from you, and the fact that he never really came to my shows. ...

The book brings up some of your personal drama (extramarital affairs, including an on-again, off-again relationship with Hill) and your wife in the book comes off as being one of the most patient people in the world. What was her reaction to the book?

The main thing about me is, I'm just bluntly honest, you know what I mean? It's like, I'm a man. Beyond my book, it's in my music. If I'm going through something, you'll hear it in my music. Like, if you've heard The Carnival — "To all the girls I've cheated on before, it's a new year ... I'm in love with two women, who is it going to be now?" This is not (something) I waited like 20 years later to be like, boom. I just basically stated the stuff that happened when it happened. ... They say, what's the secret? I say, first, the person I was trying to be with had to be a friend first, and clearly I would say that's how we made it through. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Connie Britton steps into boots of a hardworking recording artist on show

Nashville. Actress speaks about her new role on a show that shares the details of professional world in Music City

AMBER RAY
Metro World News

It's a risk to hinge a show named Nashville, detailing the ins and outs of the record business in Music City, on an actress who has no professional singing experience. If the actress is Connie Britton, however, that's a gamble worth taking.

Britton is a calm powerhouse onscreen, bringing strength and complexity to roles on Friday Night Lights and American Horror Story, both of which earned the Boston native Emmy nominations. On her new series, Britton plays Rayna Jaymes, a country queen whose singing career has recently hit a speed bump.

She's presented with the option of co-headlining a tour with the genre's hot new thing, a Taylor Swift-like pop tart (Hayden Panettiere), which sets up the show's central rivalry. But here you'll also find family drama that blurs into corrupt local politics, broken love stories and music.

In anticipation of the Nashville premiere, we passed Britton the mic, and she sang the praises of her new series.

Actresses Connie Britton and Hayden Panettiere speak about their new show Nashville. FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES

What made you say this is a role I have to play?
Rayna is a really, really strong character. She's a self-made character and she's a survivor. It's an interesting thing to watch where she finds her strength; she just pulls from whatever she knows to keep going. She supports her family and she has created this career not out of folly, but because she really needs it as a woman and as a person kind of moving away from her (father's legacy) and creating her own path. Rayna has lived a life with her band members and she's had a relationship with the head of her band and now she's in this marriage. There's a lot of back-story, and I don't want to give it all away.

How much does the established artist versus young upstart conflict between Rayna and Juliette Barnes (Panettiere's character) play into the overall plot?
I never saw the show in those terms, and I'm working hard to not have the show become about (a young versus old rivalry), because I certainly don't feel old and I'm not interested in playing old. I don't want it to be about one woman versus another woman.

I think what our two characters represent is two people in very different phases of their life and different phases in the music business. Our show is called Nashville, and a big part of that is the music business. And so I think our two characters are a gateway into that story.

How will their relationship play out?
Knowing Rayna the way I do, I think that there's going to be redemption for everybody involved. I'm always interested in that.

Do you intentionally look to play strong women?
I try to play such different characters, but there's always one strong intent, and that is to play women in a way that portrays them as powerful and true and complex and comfortable in their own skin, even in the midst of crisis and chaos, whatever form that takes.

In TV we have a lot of opportunity, we're seeing a lot of really strong women characters on television.

But I like to play a strong woman who is also accessible and vulnerable and has a lot of the same qualities as most women do. I think that people appreciate that and my hope is to keep doing that.

Details

Where can you watch the show?

- **On CTV Two.** Nashville begins airing on CTV Two on Oct. 10

Emily Owens M.D. offers up doctor drama

STEPHEN ERAMO
scene@metronews.ca

When TV audiences last saw Necar Zadegan, she was playing a humanoid alien who died tragically in the sci-fi series The Event. Prior to that, the beautiful, talented and silky-voiced actress became caught up in political red tape as Dalia Hassan, former first lady-made-president of the fictional Islamic Republic of Kamistan in 24.

Next month, Zadegan makes her debut as Dr. Gina Bandari, a world-renowned cardiothoracic surgeon who is responsible for mentoring a group of eager interns at Denver Memorial Hospital in the new CW series Emily Owens, M.D. While Gina's task is a rewarding one, it is not without its frustration and the occasional head-butting, as Zadegan explains.

"Gina is obviously further down the road than Emily (Mamie Gummer) and the other interns in terms of her professional career and has learned lessons through her wealth of experience," says the actress. "She feels such lessons have helped get her to where she is today, and is trying to instill that knowledge in these interns.

"I also think Gina feels that she and her peers were tougher and smarter than these newbies, who don't have as much time to learn everything. So she can sometimes be impatient with Emily, but it's not just that. Gina's understanding of medicine and the (emotional) distance you have to keep as well as the sacrifices you have to make are all lessons that Emily still isn't aware of, or might not agree with anyway.

"They're different doctors who work differently and will likely continue to do so. Emily is trying to challenge these lessons because of her value system, and it remains to be seen if she learns the lessons that Gina has and takes on that same type of doctor mentality."

As a little girl, Zadegan wanted to be a ballerina, and later on thought about a career in archeology. However, it was acting that she ultimately embraced. Her first paying job after graduating college was on The Bernie Mac Show, and it is one she will never forget.

"Bernie was such a kind man and he made that set feel like a real family," recalls Zadegan. "Although there were more interesting roles that later came down the pike, I was equally as intense and obsessive about the shoe saleswoman I played on Bernie Mac."

Show

Where can you watch?

- **Starts.** Emily Owens, M.D. airs Tuesdays on CTV Two starting Oct. 16

Emily Owens M.D. is not without its occasional head-butting, as Necar Zadegan tells Metro. HANDOUT

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Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Angelina Jolie makes her brother a maid of honour

While the date of Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt's wedding may still be a mystery, some of the other details are coming together — like who will be by the bride's side through the ceremony.

Jolie has reportedly enlisted her brother, James Haven, to serve as her maid of honour — of sorts — for the big day, according to Heat.

"James was thrilled to accept his little sister's offer. Angie has always related to men better than women," the source says. "As well as growing up with James, she bonded more with the jocks than the cheerleaders."

Paltrow lets her kids only watch cartoons in foreign languages

Gwyneth Paltrow isn't above letting her two children — 8-year-old daughter Apple and 6-year-old son Moses, watch a little TV, but she has some conditions.

"I only let them watch TV in French of Spanish," Paltrow tells InStyle magazine. "When I'm in France, I go to (Boulevard) Beaumarchais and buy all their cartoons."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Shocker: Lohan arrested again

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Lindsay Lohan was arrested again — I could type that phrase with my eyes closed at this point — in New York City on Monday night.

Lohan was at the wheel when her Porsche pulled up to the Dream Hotel in the Meatpacking District around 12:30 a.m., hitting an unidentified man in the knee.

Reportedly "unaware" of the accident, Lohan and her crew went into the hotel before authorities could arrive.

She was arrested upon leaving about a half-hour later and released without bail since the charge is only a misdemeanor.

The man checked into a nearby hospital, but there were no visible injuries, according to sources.

Per TMZ, Lohan is saying the accident is "really fishy" because the man didn't appear to have any visible injuries and feels she's the victim of a set up.

And surveillance video supports that — it apparently shows her accuser was exaggerating.

Conspiracy or no, this brings up a few questions:

1. Why is Lindsay Lohan driving in New York City?

If I can afford to take a cab, she can afford to take a cab.

2. How much is her car insurance? It must be more than my take-home salary at this point.

3. Who is her current lawyer? He's the hardest working man in show business (besides Kirstie Alley's tailor) and yet no one knows his name.

Twitter

@ElizabethBanks
Catching up with news and my take-away is this: Kate Middleton is even more flawless than previously assumed. #RoyalAbs

@ZooeyDexchanel
I just want to wear sweaters and coats but the universe isn't playing along.

@EllenPage
Dear America, I've a very important question. Why are chickpeas called garbanzo beans here? Thanks

@SarahKSilverman
A bull in pretty much any shop is gonna be a mess

Sofia Vergara

"Do you know who I am?" Apparently not, Sofia

Sofia Vergara didn't have as nice of a night out in Hollywood recently as she'd been expecting. The Modern Family star hit the Parlor to meet up with a group of friends but was denied access as the bar was at capacity, according to Hollyscoop.

According to onlookers, Vergara blew up at the bouncer, shouting, "Do you know who I am?"

A friend who was already inside came out to see what was going on and joined in yelling at the bouncer before Vergara stormed off. She later took a moment to blast the venue on Twitter, posting that it is the "worst sports bar in LA!"

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London calling!

From neutrals to bold colours, from the masculine to the feminine, from the '50s to the future and back again: London Fashion Week's lady is one of contrasts and undeniable cool.

RICHARD PECKETT
life@metronews.ca

Vivienne Westwood

Vivienne Westwood's show consisted of '50s-inspired lady-like pieces: cocktail dresses, jacquard skirt-suits, fitted frocks and flared skirts, headscarves and twin-sets with painted faces in yellow, green, pink and blue make-up. Seemingly pared-down for Westwood but then there was a live performance by Rooster with singer Sara Stockbridge to ramp up the anti-establishment punk vibe.

Paul Smith

Of course, Paul Smith, best known for his classic tailoring, couldn't go so far as to omit his signature pieces from his latest outing — but he did introduce a few fresh ideas. Color-blocking ran through the collection from airy, pleated skirts slit high to mid-thigh, billowing-dresses and shirts, to pajama-esque pants. New ideas aside, it was the high-waisted, mannish-style cropped trousers that proved to be the biggest success, while the striped stirrup pants and tightly cut jackets read a touch awkward.

Issa

Designer Daniella Helayel was obviously feeling hot, hot, hot on the run-up to her latest outing. Vibrant, popping colours (hot pink, orange, reds and yellows) welcomed the dawn of a '70s tropical Garden of Eden, complete with orchid-styled hairdos. Billowing caftans, tiered full-length smocks, kimonos and maxi cuts all made their way down the runway. That said, it was the halterneck jumpsuits that were the racier and more daring standouts in this collection.

Sass & Bide

Sass & Bide's Sarah-Jane Clarke and Heidi Middleton toyed with the idea of masculinity and femininity. That trope surfaced as white and black, silk versus embellishment and the reinterpretation of the tuxedo. Dresses came with structured origami pleats, sometimes edged with embellishment or featuring the camellia flower — a symbol of perfection. There were shots of hot colour too, with the introduction of fluoro orange shells and silver paillettes,

Nicole Farhi

Nicole Farhi bid farewell (kind of) to her label with a perfectly sculpted and cerebral collection. Next season sees the inception of Joanna Sykes at the creative helm, although Farhi will still be involved with the label in some capacity. The 66-year-old was inspired by the way in Carrara, Italy, changing light levels cast shadows across the marble mountains there. Her passion for artisan sculpture, fabrics and silhouettes was clear from the complex pleats that represented the shadows on her neutral colour collection.

Little ones in leather

Baby bomber. Rudsak Kids collection set to be made available in stores and online by the end of September

After years of crafting apparel and accessories for adults, Rudsak is targeting the younger crowd with the launch of its latest line.

The homegrown leather goods brand is creating smaller-sized versions of its Canadian outerwear collection specifically for children.

The kids' jackets will feature similar style elements to the label's fall-winter line for adults, a range first unveiled on the runway earlier this year.

The children's collection will launch three styles: two named Lola and Lili designed for girls, with a third, Lulu, which will be unisex.

Styles set to be featured include oversized fur-trimmed hoods, a down-filled pongee coat, a puffer jacket with lamb leather sleeves and a bomber-style puffer jacket with leather sleeves retailing for $295.

Rudsak founder and creative leader Evik Asatoorian said the kids' line was the "next obvious step" for the brand, which launched in 1994, and he pointed to his own two boys as inspiration.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Click your way to cool

Canadian label Moon launches e-commerce site

Canadian fashion label Moon has made a fresh landing online.

After a two-year exclusive collaboration with the Bay, the affordable homegrown brand has dedicated virtual boutique to showcase and sell apparel and accessories. The e-commerce site moonapparel.ca opened for business Sept. 15.

Moon's fall-winter collection for women features a colour palette of warm seasonal jewel tones against a backdrop of neutrals, colour blocking fashion and textured knits, while the holiday offerings aim to channel influence from '20s and '30s-era fashions.

The label has ties to Canadian fashion legend Alfred Sung.

Moon was the name of the Toronto boutique opened in the 1970s by the designer, and is also part of Sung's name.

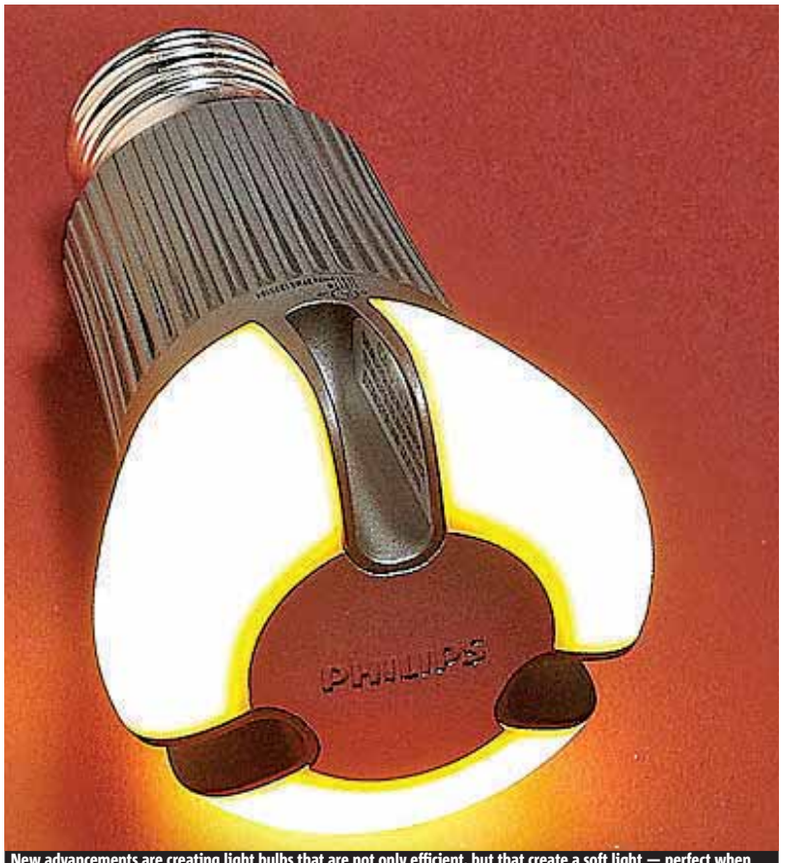
Sung is a business partner and chief designer at Mimran Group Inc.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

Qriket

Kate Moss, Lana Del Rey at British brand Mulberry's '70s-inspired fashion show



New advancements are creating light bulbs that are not only efficient, but that create a soft light — perfect when decorating a room. ISTOCK IMAGES

Lighting: A decorator's best friend

Design Centre. It's time to warm up to the new LED light bulbs

DESIGN CENTRE
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Every great decorator will tell you that lighting is one of the most important elements to having a beautiful room.

Without a true soft light, the finest furnishings and fabrics can look all wrong.

The past few years have been difficult for decorating enthusiasts as more and more provinces are regulating to phase out the soft light from the old incandescent bulbs.

British Columbia and Nova Scotia are two provinces leading the way to phase them out and introduce more efficient options. As time goes on, more and more regulations will be put in place to introduce a more efficient, safer bulb to use.

I've always been reluctant to use the new style of LED lighting when decorating as I thought the light would be too harsh, bright and cool in colour.

New advancements are creating bulbs that are not only efficient, but that create a soft light; similar to what we've always been used to.

The Philips Ambient LED Bulbs offer up a soft white light similar to the light you get with the old incandescent bulbs, last more than 20 times longer and use only about 20 per cent of the energy of a regular incandescent bulb.

The new LED bulbs fit the regular socket styles for fixtures and the good news is that it can be dimmed; allowing homeowners to use their existing light fixtures, create a designer look and ambience in a room.

When I heard of this new technology I quickly went out and purchased some of the bulbs.

They were not an inexpensive investment (the new bulbs range from $18-38 each) but considering the energy they will save over time and the fact that I won't have to get back on the ladder to change the bulb for another 20 years made me a very happy decorator.

LED bulbs facts

- LED bulbs can save more than 80 per cent energy.
- An LED bulb lasts over 20 years, outlasting about 20 of the old style bulbs.
- The Philips Ambient LED Bulbs can be dimmed to create many ambient looks in a room.
- You don't need to change your regular socket-style light fixtures to accommodate the new LED bulbs.

Green transportation

Car-sharing? It just makes sense

At what point should I consider car-sharing?
- Stephanie of Vancouver

QUEEN OF GREEN
Lindsay Coulter
green@metronews.ca

Zipcar and Car2Go both offer car-sharing programs in Canada. ISTOCK IMAGES

Car-sharing is a suitable transportation option to complement eco-friendlier alternatives like walking, busing and biking.

It's not just a viable choice when assessing your need for a second family vehicle; it can also be a great substitute for owning a car.

Before you research which car-sharing company to join, say goodbye to all of the expenses that come with car ownership, like purchasing, insuring, maintenance, fuel, tolls, and parking — not to mention the unavoidable reality of depreciation.

The benefits of car-sharing include having access to a car when you need it. Many car sharers report a higher satisfaction with their quality of life, and they drive about half the amount car owners do!

Here in Canada, car-sharing is now a whole lot smarter. Toronto and Vancouver have joined the ranks of cities in the U.K., France and Germany in becoming Car2Go friendly.

This fleet is one example that uses Smart Cars and has no set drop-off time or location; that part is up to you!

Even companies can use Car2Go to help eliminate the need for fleet programs and to reduce travel expenses from conventional car rentals or taxis. Find out more about membership and rates at Car2Go.com. You can also look into Modo.coop or Zipcar.com.

Carpooling is great, too. By taking turns with your fellow car-poolers, you'll reduce the wear and tear on your vehicle. You'll burn less gas, pollute less and reduce your vehicle costs by 50 to 75 per cent. Many cities also encourage carpooling with tax breaks, free parking and reserved lanes for high-occupancy vehicles.

Already own a car? Drive green.

In Europe eco-driving is a growing part of driver education. Start with driving the speed limit. It's safer and more efficient. Avoid idling and get rid of excess weight — clean out your trunk. Take the roof-rack off if you don't need it.

There are a variety of car-sharing companies in most major cities. Find out more at carsharing.ca and do your part to reduce urban congestion and lower carbon emissions.

A few theories on tear-free onion cutting

How do I cut an onion so that I don't cry?

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

Well there are many different theories out there, and each chef has his or her own, but, first, why do onions make us cry to begin with?

When you cut into an onion, it releases a gas. Once the gas gets to your eyes, it triggers a blinking and tearing effect in order to push the gas out from the eyes. So how do we stop this? Well here are a few ideas.

• I have watched many food prep people in professional kitchens put the onions in the refrigerator. They believe that the cold onion helps slow down the irritation that causes crying.

• Some people say to avoid the gas, chop the onions under running water, but I have never understood how you dice an onion under cold running water.

• Some websites suggest wearing lab goggles, or snorkelling goggles. This might work, but I would sure feel funny dressed like that in my kitchen!

• There are those that suggest a candle near by to burn off the gasses

• And finally, me. What does the Butler do? Well, I just like to cry it out!

Signed,
The Teary-eyed Butler

Wouldn't you feel funny dressed like this in the kitchen? ISTOCK IMAGES

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Make the most of the open wall space in your bathroom by installing shelves and towel racks. ISTOCK IMAGES

Tiny bathroom? Here are some unique ideas to create extra storage

DIY ideas. There are ways to make a cluttered space more bearable

A small bathroom is a difficult problem. If you aren't ready to tear down your walls and renovate, try these unique ideas and clever solutions to create extra storage room in your bathroom — guaranteed to make your morning routine less stressful.

Contain It
Use baskets, bins and trays to stay organized and reflect the look of your home. If you're on a budget, try using household objects in a whole new way, like a cutlery tray to hold make-up or a plastic shoe box for medical supplies. With both of these items you can rinse them out if anything leaks. You can also re-use tall, narrow vases to hold hairbrushes and combs.

Make More Counter Space
If you're constantly balancing toiletries on the edge of the sink, it's time to give yourself more room.

Install a ledge-style shelf over the sink, but underneath the mirror, to lay out cosmetics or toothbrushes. This small piece will add convenience to the room, and style depending on the type of shelf you choose.

Open It Up
Installing a shelving unit can be incredibly practical, but may make an already small room feel more cramped. Instead, find or build a shelf unit with clear glass shelves and a mirrored back. This will keep the room feeling open and adds stylish options for any décor displays.

Character Finds
A great way to stay on a budget, stay true to your design taste and add practical storage to your bathroom by combing antique markets and yard sales. Cookie tins, tool boxes, bushel baskets, tea canisters and more can be used to store your bathroom supplies in a unique way. You can then put these fun storage containers out in the open.

Hang It
Who says a side table needs to stay on the ground? Find a small bedside table with doors for storage and hang it on your bathroom wall as a medicine cabinet. Paint it a fun colour to match the décor of the room. Think outside the box about other household items that could be used as storage if only they were hung on a wall – then take credit for your creativity!

Use All Vertical Space
Make the most of open wall space in your bathroom by installing floating shelves all the way up the wall. These are inexpensive, easy to install, and offer many storage and display options.

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Time to call in the chimney sweep

A matter of safety. Experts recommend chimneys be inspected, cleaned annually

People are drawn to a fire, whether they're roasting marshmallows around a campfire during the summer or cuddling up near the fireplace in the dead of winter.

And just as you take precautions outdoors, there are things you should do to make sure your fireplaces and chimneys are safe.

Fires built in fireplaces or wood stoves leave a gummy residue, called creosote, that can stick to the lining of your chimney. Creosote — created by soot, smoke, gases and other particles — is flammable, and can be the source of a dangerous chimney fire. Experts recommend that chimneys be inspected every year by a certified chimney sweep and cleaned if necessary. The cost can range from $100 to $300 or higher.

Cleaning a chimney is not a do-it-yourself project, says Kit Selzer, a senior editor at Better Homes and Gardens. It's a dirty job, and it also can be risky, especially if you have to climb onto the roof.

In numbers

26,900

Between 2005 and 2008 in the U.S., an average of 26,900 fires annually were blamed on fireplaces or chimney conectors, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Chimney sweeps are trained to determine whether chimneys are structurally sound and whether they need to be cleaned, said Ashley Eldridge, education director for the Chimney Safety Institute of America. They also will make sure the chimney is up to code, especially important in older houses.

"Each job is different," said Christina El-Hage, a certified sweep with Pride Clean Chimney Sweeps in Bethesda, Md., but there are some basics.

"We're looking to make sure the flue is fully safe," she said. "We're making sure there are no third-degree burns of creosote on the lining."

Chimney sweeps also check to see if there are any birds or animals in the chimney, or anything that would block the flow of smoke. Cleaning the chimney involves removing creosote.

When thinking of chimneys, El-Hage says, many people focus on the one attached to the fireplace. "Yes, they can catch on fire, but we're not dealing with a deadly gas, carbon monoxide," she says, as is the case with chimneys leading from furnaces. Whether they burn oil or gas, furnaces vent carbon monoxide outside into the atmosphere, and those chimneys, too, need to be inspected.

There are steps you can take at home to reduce creosote buildup and the risk of a chimney fire.

Foremost is picking dry wood to burn, Eldridge said. To determine whether wood is sufficiently dry, "take two pieces and bang them together. You get almost a ring as an indication its ready. If not, it's a dull thud," he said.

Don't throw pizza boxes or other trash in the fireplace, El-Hage said, because it causes a thicker smoke, which lowers the temperature in the chimney. And to reduce the risk of a spark flying out of the fireplace, use a screen and stay in the room while the fire is burning.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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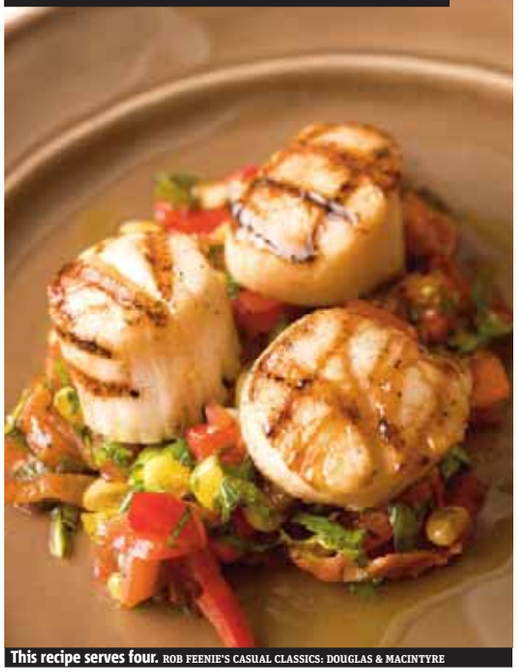
Hot, salty ragout complements flavours of scallops, other seafood

Grilled Scallops with Corn, Bacon & Red Pepper Ragout



This recipe serves four. ROB FEENIE'S CASUAL CLASSICS: DOUGLAS & MACINTYRE

Rob Feenie first wowed diners with his innovative tasting menus at the inventive Lumiere restaurant in Vancouver. Today, he creates delicious family-style recipes for Cactus Club restaurants with thousands of people of all ages enjoying his signature dishes.

But before he became Canada's first Iron Chef America champion, Feenie paid his culinary dues with stints at Alsace with Chef Emile Jung at Au Crocodile and Antoine Westermann at Buerehiesel, both Michelin three-star-rated restaurants, in Chicago with Charlie Trotter and in New York with Daniel Boulud and Jean-Georges Vongerichten.

Among the recipes in the chef's book Rob Feenie's Casuals Classics is this scallop dish.

"This dish makes an excellent starter for a meal or a nice lunch when served with a simple green salad," Feenie writes in the book. "I use Qualicum Bay scallops and peaches-and-cream corn, both of which are local products, but you can substitute other varieties of either.

"The hot and salty ragout is an especially good combination with scallops, but it's also delicious with baked halibut or grilled steelhead salmon."

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp rice vinegar
- 1 tbsp fresh lemon juice
- 2 slices smoked bacon, in 1/4-inch dice
- 1/2 cup diced red onions
- 1 cup corn kernels, cut off the cob
- 1/2 red bell pepper, in 1/4 inch dice (about 1/2 cup)
- 1 Thai chili, seeded and finely minced
- Juice of 1 lime (about 1 tbsp)
- 1 tbsp unsalted butter
- 12 large scallops (muscles removed from sides if present)
- 1 tsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tbsp finely chopped cilantro

1. In a small bowl, combine soy sauce, rice vinegar and lemon juice. Set aside.

2. Heat a large frying pan on medium. Add the bacon and cook for 2 to 3 minutes, stirring, until crisp. Stir in onions, corn, bell peppers and chili and sauté for 2 minutes, then add lime juice and butter.

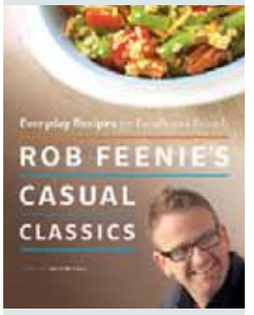
3. Season with salt and pepper, reduce the heat to low and simmer while scallops are cooking. (Or refrigerate the ragout in an airtight container for up to two days.)

4. Preheat a stovetop grill or a barbecue to medium-high. Warm a plate in the oven at 200 F. Pat scallops dry with paper towels and season with salt, pepper and a dash of olive oil. Grill scallops for 2 minutes, turn over and grill for another 1 minute. Transfer to the warm plate.

5. Divide the ragout evenly among 4 plates and top each serving with 3 scallops. Spoon about 2 tsp of the soy dressing over each plate and garnish with cilantro. Serve. **FROM ROB FEENIE'S CASUAL CLASSICS BY ROB FEENIE (DOUGLAS & MACINTYRE)**

Cookbook of the Week

Simple yet special



Rob Feenie, the longtime leader in the casual fine dining movement, reveals his favourite recipes in Rob Feenie's Casual Classics: Everyday Recipes For Family and Friends.

The book brings together the best innovative and approachable meals.

From such fundamental recipes as Roasted Tomato Sauce and Juicy Poached Chicken to globally inspired dishes like Barbecued Duck Spring Rolls, Quinoa Jambalaya and Braised Osso Buco, these are real-life modern classics that are adaptable to budgets, dietary restrictions and busy schedules. **METRO**

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Quinoa Salad packs a tasty protein punch

"One of my favorite grains right now is quinoa," writes Rob Feenie in Rob Feenie's Casual Classics. "It is one of the most complete proteins on the planet and can work well on its own, in a salad or with other proteins. The key is to give it flavour, which we have done here with the lemon juice, capers, bell peppers and tomatoes. "

This recipe serves four to six. ROB FEENIE'S CASUAL CLASSICS: DOUGLAS & MACINTYRE

Ingredients

- 1 cup quinoa, washed well and drained
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 3/4 lb fresh green beans, in 1-inch pieces
- 1/2 lb very ripe Roma tomatoes (3 to 4)
- 2 tbsp capers, rinsed
- 4 green onions, in 1/2-inch slices
- 1/2 cup roughly chopped fresh basil
- 3/4 tsp salt
- 2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 tbsp fresh lemon juice
- 3 tbsp roasted pecans

1. Combine quinoa and water in pot and bring to simmer on medium heat. Reduce heat to low, cover and cook until all the liquid is absorbed, 15 to 20 minutes. Set aside.

2. Fill bowl with ice water. Bring large pot of salted water to boil on high heat, add green beans and cook 5 minutes, until barely tender. Remove from heat and drain green beans in a colander. Place colander the ice water to preserve beans' bright green colour and stop them from cooking further.

3. Using a sharp knife, cut tomatoes in half and gently squeeze out and discard the seeds. (It is not necessary to remove the skins for this recipe.) Cut tomatoes in 1/2-inch dice.

4. In bowl, combine quinoa, green beans, tomatoes, bell peppers, capers, green onions and basil. Season with salt, olive oil and lemon juice, and sprinkle with pecans. Keep refrigerated in an airtight container for up to 2 days.

FROM ROB FEENIE'S CASUAL CLASSICS BY ROB FEENIE (DOUGLAS & MACINTYRE)

Guidelines for pre-approval

Financial review.
Find out what you can and can't afford when looking for a home

YLVA
VAN BUUREN
For Metro

Getting a pre-approved mortgage before you start shopping for a house or condo is a good idea because it lets you know what you can — and can't — afford.

A pre-approved mortgage is a tentative determination by a lender to loan you a certain amount of money, explains Brenda Hiscock, a member of Advocis, the Financial Advisors Association of Canada, and a certified financial planner with Guilfoyle Financial Planning Inc.

The amount is based on a review of your finances, and the confirmation with fixed interest rate is good for 90 to 120 days.

"But pre-approval doesn't mean that you're approved by the lender," says Jared Dreyer, president of the Mortgage Brokers Association of B.C. and an accredited mortgage professional at VERICO Dreyer Group Mortgages, Vancouver. "What it means is that you have the ability to go out and make an offer with the condition of financing."

There are a number of specific guidelines you must meet before you are pre-approved for a mortgage. PHOTODISC/THINKSTOCK

How does the lender determine how much you qualify for?

There are some very specific guidelines, says Hiscock. Monthly housing costs (mortgage payments, property taxes and heating) should not be more than 32 per cent of your gross monthly income (combined if it's a couple). Also, your entire monthly debt load (housing costs and other debt payments such as car payments and credit card payments) should not be more than 40 per cent of your gross monthly income.

Here is the type of information you need to provide a lender when you are looking to get a pre-approval:

- Personal identification;
- Confirmation of salary (if you are self-employed, tax returns from the last three years);
- Proof of other sources of income (such as investment income);
- Information about all bank accounts, loans and other debts;
- Proof of all financial assets such as GIC's, RRSP's, etc.;
- Source and amount of down payment and deposit funds;
- Proof of source of funds to cover the closing costs (usually between two and four percent of the purchase price).

Visit the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada (fcac-acfc.gc.ca/eng/resources/publications) for more information about getting pre-approved for a mortgage.

Shop around for best lender

If you are starting the process of buying a house, talking to your bank about its mortgage options is always a good starting point, especially if you have an established relationship with someone there.

But experts say it's important to check out other lenders for information, too.

Banks, mortgage companies, insurance companies, loan companies and credit unions all sell mortgages.

Remember that you are entering into a potential 25-year relationship, says Brenda Hiscock, a member of Advocis, the Financial Advisors Association of Canada, and a certified financial planner with Guilfoyle Financial Planning Inc.

"Make sure you are comfortable, and feel trust with the institution, and the person you are dealing with."

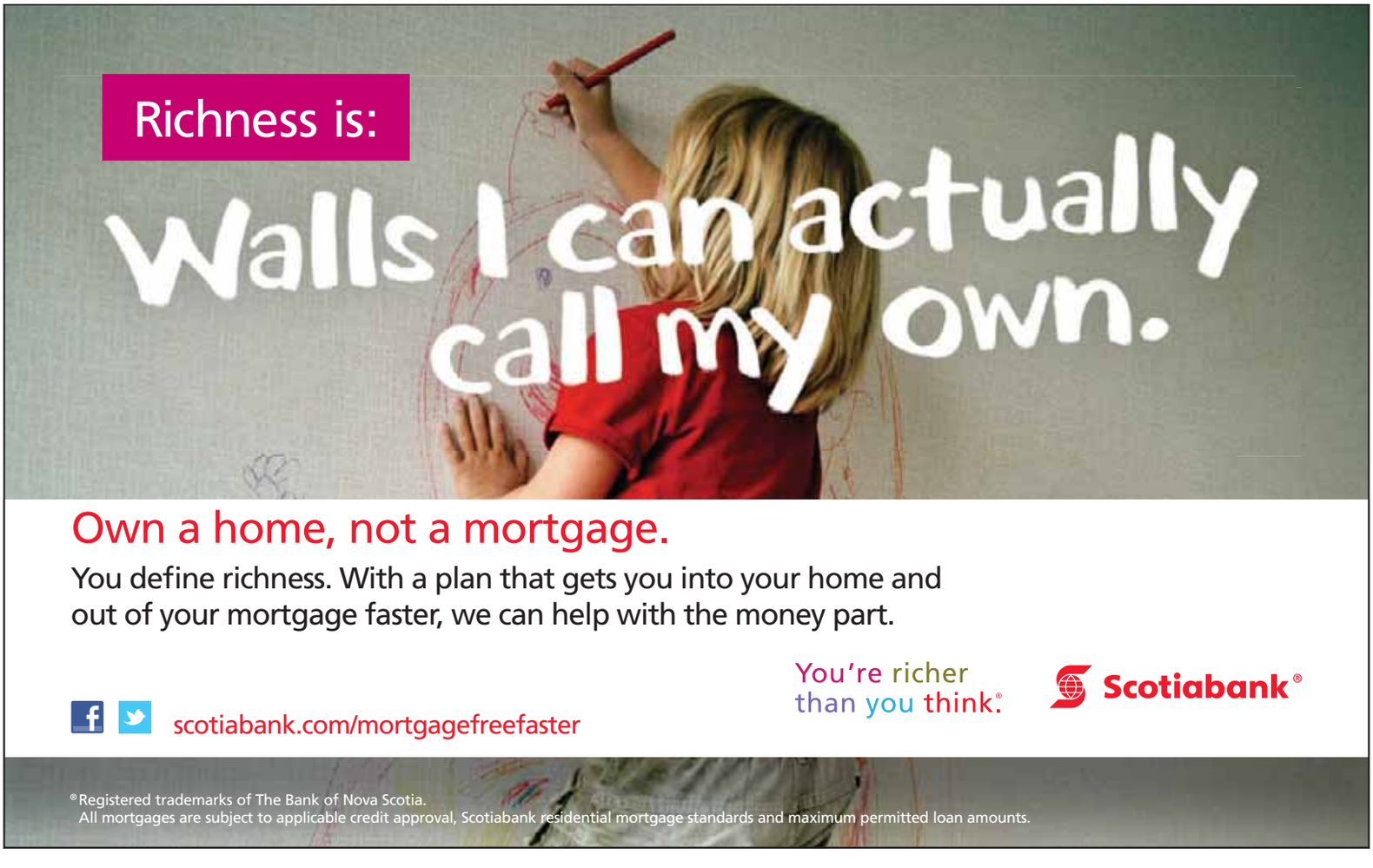
Some of the mortgage options you should ask about include:

- Pre-payment — Can you apply a lump sum payment every year?
- Terms — What mortgages are available (open or closed, variable or fixed) and for what terms?
- Conditions — If you have to break the mortgage early, what would the penalty be?

YLVA VAN BUUREN

Mortgage brokers

- If you want someone else to find the best rate for you, you should speak to a mortgage broker.
- A mortgage broker deals with many different lenders and can offer several choices. For example, brokers deal with private lenders so there may be more options available to those with poor credit or unstable income history.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SPORTS 4

The Winnipeg Jets' Andrew Ladd, left, and the New York Islanders' Travis Hamonic battle for the puck during an informal practice Wednesday in Winnipeg. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Effects of NHL lockout are already being felt

NHL. More players leave for Europe and league announces salary cuts for staff

The NHL lockout is only a few days old but its effects are already being felt around the league.

With a number of big-name players heading for Europe, NHL employees were informed Wednesday that their salaries are scheduled to be cut 20 per cent across the board. That will come into effect on Oct. 1, when full-time staff are reduced to a four-day work week.

The news was delivered by commissioner Gary Bettman during a Wednesday morning staff meeting, according to league spokesman Gary Meagher.

The NHL also announced the cancellation of pre-season games through Sept. 30, as well as the postponement of the Kraft Hockeyville pre-season game scheduled for Oct. 3 in Belleville, Ont., to the 2013-14 season.

Unlike in September 2004, when more than 50 per cent of NHL employees were laid off just days into the lockout, the league is trying to avoid cutting staff. Deputy commissioner Bill Daly told The Canadian Press over the weekend that there were no immediate plans for layoffs, although multiple sources who attended Wednesday's meeting said employees were warned that further cuts could be coming.

A number of teams, including the Ottawa Senators and Florida Panthers, announced layoffs earlier this week.

As the lockout moved into its fourth day, there were still no formal bargaining sessions scheduled between the league and NHLPA. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"It doesn't look positive. It could be a season-long break."

Rick Nash, to newspaper Sudostschweiz upon arrival in Switzerland to play with HC Davos. The New York Rangers star said he believes the lockout could last the entire season — just as it did in 2004-05.

Heading east

On Wednesday, Jason Spezza signed a deal with Rapperswil-Jona in Switzerland, Anze Kopitar agreed to join brother Gasper with Mora in Sweden, and Russian stars Alex Ovechkin (Moscow Dynamo) and Pavel Datsyuk (CSKA Moscow) returned home to play in the KHL.

NFL

Twitter threats not getting to Morgan

Washington Redskins receiver Joshua Morgan felt the full downside of the social-media age this week, receiving death threats and other venomous messages on Twitter because of his fourth-quarter blunder in a loss to the St. Louis Rams.

"I heard everything, especially when they get you on Twitter and are sending you death threats and wishing you bad things and your firstborn," Morgan said. "You never let it get to you, especially with me being from D.C."

Morgan received a penalty for throwing the ball at Cortland Finnegan, costing the Redskins field position during the team's final drive in Sunday's 31-28 loss. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Manning returns to practice after 1st loss with Broncos

If Peyton Manning is sore, he's not saying. If his confidence is waning, he'd be the last to let anyone know.

Back practising following his first loss as a Denver Bronco, Manning wouldn't offer much Wednesday when asked if the hits he took against Atlanta had any lasting impact.

"I've never really answered that question before. So, I'm full participation in practice," Manning said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Sweet day for Vizquel at Yankee Stadium

Omar Vizquel hits a double against the Yankees in New York Wednesday to move ahead of Babe Ruth on the all-time hits list. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

There was a chocolate bar sitting on the top shelf of Omar Vizquel's locker just after the Jays' 4-2 loss at Yankee Stadium Wednesday afternoon.

Not just any chocolate bar; it was a Baby Ruth.

Vizquel, and the growing number of reporters descending on his locker, knew the connection immediately. Vizquel had just tied, and surpassed, Babe Ruth on baseball's all time hits list.

"Somebody put it there, I don't know who," a beaming Vizquel said as he drove out two hits to reach 2,874 in his career, and pass the Babe into sole possession of 41st all time.

Vizquel's amazing feat brought some levity to the Jays locker-room, and franchise for that matter, after the Yunel Escobar suspension Tuesday.

Escobar was suspended three games for a homophobic slur he wrote on his eye-black stickers over the weekend.

The Jays lost the first game of a double-header, not able to manage enough run support for a very good Henderson Alvarez, so a dose of good news was welcome to say the least.

Vizquel, at 45, and with a career that spans three decades in the major leagues, slapped a single off Andy Pettitte in the fourth to tie Ruth, then went past him with a double off David Robertson in the eighth.

"Mentioning my name next to his (Ruth) makes me feel so little. Never in my career, and it's been a long one, did I think I'd get to compare my hits to the Babe. It's an amazing feeling," said Vizquel.

Vizquel had his second multi-hit game in a row and 10th of the season, good for second best in big-league history for a player 45 or older behind Julio Franco, who has 53 such games, according to information provided by the Elias Sports Bureau. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Second game

Ichiro Suzuki had a go-ahead single in the eighth inning, his seventh hit of the day, to help the New York Yankees complete the doubleheader sweep of the Toronto Blue Jays with a 2-1 win Wednesday night that ensured the Yankees remained atop the AL East. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mobile sports

Cricket

The road to the 2013 World Baseball Classic starts this week and it will be anything but easy for Canada. A 16-team qualifying round for the event begins with the top squad from each four-team pool locking up a spot in next year's Classic.

Horoscopes

Aries
March 21 - April 20
The Sun's entry into your opposite sign of Libra on Saturday will bring partnership problems to the forefront and this time you must not run away from them. Power struggles are likely but you were born a winner — so win.

Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Travel plans and social activities will be disrupted over the next 24 hours, and most likely it is you who will be doing the disrupting. It's OK to have second thoughts. It's OK to change your mind.

Gemini
May 22 - June 21
One of the best times of the year begins this weekend when the Sun moves into the area of your chart that governs romance and creativity. Today, do only what feels right to you. It's OK to be selfish.

Cancer
June 22 - July 23
There is a danger today that you will come on too strong and provoke some kind of backlash. Maybe that is the price you have to pay for being honest about what you believe. The truth must not be denied.

Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
If you are wasting your money on things you don't need, there is still time to cut them out of your life, but you have got to be quick. Very soon, the matter will be taken out of your hands. Act now.

Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Although the Sun leaves your sign this weekend, that's not an invitation to slow down. Other influences indicate that your momentum will keep you going at breakneck speed for some time to come. Enjoy.

Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
The Sun is moving closer to your birth sign and already you can feel the positive effects. For best results though you should focus your aim and concentrate on those two or three things that mean the most to you.

Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Today's cosmic picture warns in no uncertain terms that if you lose your temper, for even a moment, it will be you who loses out in the long-term. Take nothing too seriously and find ways to relax.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
One of the best times of the year for friendships begins very soon, so strive to be open to everyone you meet. This is also a good time to get more personally involved in some kind of social movement.

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You have accomplished a lot and have a right to feel pleased with yourself but don't take it easy because there is still more to be done. You were born to be a winner, so get out there and compete.

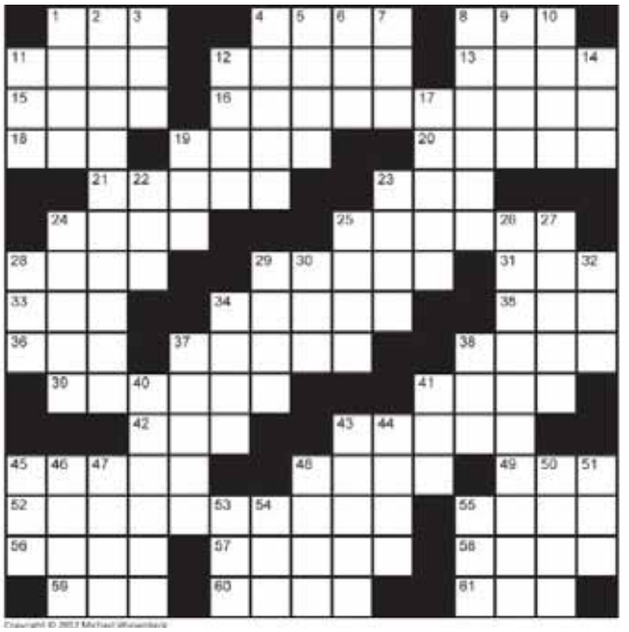
Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may be tempted to do something out of the ordinary today but if you are smart, you will wait for the Sun to move in your favour during the weekend. Good times are coming sooner than you think.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
What seems so confusing now will seem simple a few days. However, today's influences will bring out your passion for something, or someone, to a degree that could cause problems, so think before you act.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: A Cold Measure and a Hot Band

BY MICHAEL WIESENBERG



Across
1. Island: Fr.
4. Certain hockey shot
8. Affectionate touch
11. Campus Greek house, briefly
12. Circle, square, or triangle, e.g.
13. "Are you ___ out?": query to a hesitant poker player (2 wds.)
15. Acorn-dropping trees
16. Snowfall measure
18. "This is dedicated to the ___ I love"
19. Commanded, old-style
20. Sandwich cookies
21. They play their home games at BC Place Stadium in downtown Vancouver
23. Cowardly person
24. Fly by oneself
25. Surprisingly [or not more (than)] (2 wds.)
28. Greek crosses
29. Elliott of *Ocean's 11, 12, 13*
31. Bill's "excellent adventure" partner
33. "___ Could Turn Back Time": 1989 Cher hit (2 wds.)
34. 1,000 kg
35. Small battery
36. "___ amis": start of a French speech
37. Dummies or spinning toys
38. TV award
39. Saskatchewan capital
41. Salesmen, for short
42. Bruce of karate fame
43. ___ Leaf
45. Sales talk
48. ___ Pilot: PDA
49. Father
52. Montréal-based 2011 Juno Album of the Year winning group (2 wds)
55. Cold cut cutting locale
56. MTV viewer
57. Where to bowl
58. One of the Great Lakes
59. '01, '02, etc.: abbr.
60. "Beware the ___ of March": Julius Caesar
61. Winter time in Manitoba: initialism

Down
1. Persia, now
2. Banff National Park's best known tourist destination (2 wds.)
3. Some Spielberg visitors
4. Moults
5. Reporter Lois of the *Daily Planet*
6. Likely
7. Maritime Province: initialism
8. PM Trudeau
9. Early poker pot maker
10. Matador's opponent
11. Egg ___ young
12. Photocopy
14. Legal matter
17. Back-of-the-fridge problem
19. Ghostly greeting
22. They: Fr.
23. "Merry old" king of rhyme
24. Toronto-born *60 Minutes* regular Morley
25. *Sister Act* extras
26. Calgary team
27. Britches stitches
28. ___ Horton's
29. "The Naked Maja" painter
30. Yoko ___ Lennon
32. 24 hours
34. Vocal sound
37. Give up
38. Serpentine seafood
40. Gathers bit by bit
41. Engine speed
43. Female horses
44. Bar servings
45. Posed
46. Carnivore's quarry
47. "Happy birthday" writer or NHL player at times
48. Scent for a car freshener
50. Got off
51. Expire
53. He's coming in a Three Dog Night song
54. Pet rocks, once
55. Xmas mo.

Yesterday's Crossword

What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

1			2		8			
8	2						7	4
	5			1		2		
	3		4	8				6
		4				3		
5				3	9		2	
		3		9			4	
9	6						1	7
			1		7			9

Yesterday's Sudoku

Today 22°/13° Sunny
Friday 19°/13° Sunny
Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
TWN incorporates MSC data

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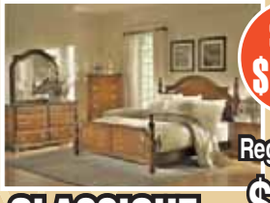

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